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LD0909114388 [Editorial Report]

Israel

U.S. Meeting—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres accepted an invitation to a "tripartite meeting" with his U.S. and Egyptian counterparts, Jerusalem radio announced. The Foreign Ministry refuted a minister's remarks that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "knew absolutely nothing" about the U.S. proposed meeting and said Shamir's office had been notified about it "as early as 19 August," IDF radio disclosed. Commenting on the meeting, Shamir said it should not be "accorded special significance" because it "cannot instigate any far-reaching changes," Jerusalem radio reported.

Occupied Territories—A military spokesman denied a report by "Arab sources" that a 2-year-old boy from the Hebron area was killed after he inhaled tear gas, the radio said. An "attacker" was killed when the Army fired on "suspected inciters" at a village near Janin, the radio added. The IDF is conducting an "initiated operation" in the Ramallah District, the radio announced.

Egypt

The prime minister affirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he will participate in the meeting in New York with the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister, MENA noted.

Lebanon

Deputy Farid Sarhal denied reports that he had been "kidnapped" and brought to West Beirut but said he was in the area and met with Robert Franjiyah, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio disclosed. Sarhal's "interception" was part of a Syrian plan to lure the deputies to West Beirut to "secure a quorum" for a parliamentary session to elect a new president, according to "security quarters" cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

Hizballah gunmen guarding the home of Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah clashed with Syrian guards at a checkpoint opposite the house, the radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

A special "Committee of Nine" met "on the sidelines" of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministers' meeting and endorsed a PLO proposal to put the occupied territories under "international protection" until the Palestinian problem is settled, a "senior PLO source" told the JORDAN TIMES.

Iraq

Pardon Decree—The RCC issued a decree pardoning political prisoners except those convicted for their affiliation with "hireling Iranian movements" and certain other detainees, INA announced. Among the offenses not pardoned are espionage, drug trafficking, robbery, and desertion from the military, the decree stated.

Kurds in Turkey—raqi refugees in Turkey are being investigated to discover any "separatist terrorists" among them, according to an official cited by ANATOLIA.

Libya

Relations With Chad—Libya has provided "all facilities" for the release of Chadian prisoners as part of the country's 19th anniversary celebrations, JANA announced. The Chadian information minister said in an interview with Libreville radio that Chad was not "officially informed" of the release but that it may involve "immigrants or Chadian migrant workers." The Libyan-backed Chadian opposition leader Acheikh Ibn Oumar said his New GUNT has "decided to make peace" with the government "through direct negotiations without any preconditions," BBC World Service reported. Ibn Oumar denied Sudanese reports that 2,000 of his armed troops surrendered their weapons in Sudan and agreed to return to Chad or that Sudan is mediating between Chad and the New GUNT. In response, the Chadian information minister told Libreville radio that the government wants "concrete proposals" from Ibn Oumar to show "his intent."

U.S. Relations—An "Arab ministerial source in Rabat" said contacts with the United States occurred "lately" and the Tunisian president is "exerting all efforts in this regard," according to the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD. Libya's "most prominent" condition for improving relations was recognition of its sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra, the source added.

Pakistan

Troops were called in to quell "ethnic riots" 8 September in Hyderabad, Delhi radio reported. The Hyderabad division commissioner issued a press note stating that 2 persons died and 11 were injured in shooting incidents which police "brought under control," Islamabad radio disclosed.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met with his Indian counterpart in Nicosia to discuss India's "unhappiness" at Yaqub Khan's remarks to the NAM foreign ministers' meeting, according to Delhi radio. Yaqub Khan told the ministers that he hoped the Jammu and Kashmir dispute would be resolved in accordance with "relevant UN resolutions" and "in the spirit of the Simla agreement," Islamabad radio stated. Other issues covered in his speech included the situation in Afghanistan and the region's "security environment," the radio added.

Afghanistan

Two generals and another prominent Armed Forces official were killed when a military transport plane "crashed after being hit by a U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missile," Kabul radio announced. The Soviet made Antonov-32 was "flying toward" Konduz, according to the radio's report cited by AFP.

Washington and Islamabad have embarked on a "fresh propaganda campaign" against Afghanistan to bolster Pakistan's request for "advanced AWACS spy planes," a TASS news analysis maintained. This new "propaganda hullabaloo" parallels Pakistan's intensified "armed interference" in Afghanistan and is an invented "imaginary foreign threat" to keep the current government in power and to justify U.S. military aid, BAKHTAR contended.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Wants Provisional, Not Exile Government

JN0909103988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Sep (WAKH)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the PLO will not form a government-in-exile but a provisional government because a government-in-exile cannot be established except by states that have governments under occupation.

'Arafat noted that the PNC will be held in Algiers in early October and that Libya, Iraq, and Tunisia have offered to host it.

The PLO chairman declined to answer a question on whether he is going to present a political initiative at the European Parliament on 13 September, saying: My visit in itself is important. 'Arafat asserted: There are Zionist attempts to hamper my going to Strasbourg and meeting with some European figures there. 'Arafat added: They cannot hide the sun with their hands. Moreover, the PLO does not depend on a meeting or a visit. He noted that the 137 states have recognized the PLO and that the states that recognize Israel do not represent three-quarters of this figure.

Asked what he will tell the European Parliament, 'Arafat said: I will ask Europe to carry out its moral and political responsibilities, especially as they participated one way or another in the plight of our people, in their pain and suffering, and in their dispersion. Europe must bear this responsibility and help our people once again to win their freedom and independence on their soil.

'Arafat reiterated that nobody can bypass the PLO because it is the voice of the Palestinian people. He said: This has been affirmed by Tamir and the Israeli peace and security council, which includes 40 reserve officers. It has been reiterated by other Israeli officers and civilians whom the Palestinian people's determination and overwhelming popular uprising forced to face facts.

On the meeting of the Palestinian factions in Tripoli, 'Arafat said: The Libyan move was aimed at attracting some brothers, especially those in the PFLP-GC and Al-Sa'iqah Organization to the Palestinian fold and to the PNC. 'Arafat explained that a meeting was held but has not reached palpable results yet. He added: I agree that the current efforts should continue to promote the dialogue because one rifle added to a thousand rifles is a new strength.

Qaddumi: 'Nothing New' on Ties With Syria

JN0809184188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said there is nothing new in Syrian-Palestinian relations. He said no decision has yet been made on forming a provisional government or a government-in-exile and that this is to be decided by the PNC.

Asked if he had met with Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister and head of the Syrian delegation to the Nicosia nonaligned meeting, Qaddumi said: We met, shook hands, and had a brief talk.

Asked if he is prepared to meet with the Syrian delegation, Qaddumi said: We are prepared to meet and talk. We have met and talked in the past. He added: Our relations with Syria are contingent on Syria's position. You are aware that we went to Damascus and met with President al-Asad, and you know what happened after that.

Asked if there was mediation to resume dialogue with Damascus, Qaddumi said: There is absolutely no mediation. In fact, I cannot comprehend or find any logic in what happened during the prior period.

Asked his opinion on the Lebanese presidential elections, Qaddumi said: The Lebanese people should muster their strength to hold the elections on time, and they should decide for themselves.

Salah Khalaf Interviewed on Current Issues

JN0809210288 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Sep 88 p 23

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by Fathi al-Barqawi; date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] The Palestine question sees daily developments. What is on the agenda concerning the proposed interim government and the independent state? Has agreement in principle been reached on anything?

[Khalaf] Nothing has as yet crystallized as a decision. However, details are being studied. On basic issues, however, there is complete agreement. This means that at this point an announcement must be made on a basic step that takes note of the Palestinian uprising, its development and continuation; Jordan's severance of administrative and legal ties with the Palestinian [West] Bank; and the international climate of detente favoring the resolution of regional crises like the Cyprus and Cambodia problems.

Under the circumstances, we must launch a new initiative because, politically speaking, we have not made any progress for 14 years. We must devise a new, dynamic mechanism for our interim plan of action if we are to move forward. We have not taken a single step on the road of an independent Palestinian state since 1974. This point is noted by all the Palestinian factions. The question is how to move and what are the limits of such a political initiative. We are now busy compiling and analyzing all relevant UN resolutions. We have before us options that some would call concessions, others reality. These options will be the material for our program so we can break the back of the knottiest problem we are facing now.

Some may think our next step will be in response to U.S. or Israeli pressures. This is not the case. It will be in response to the Palestinian uprising and its continuation. If we are to keep up our struggle, we cannot afford to mark time. There you have our program which we formulated 14 years ago, but it has not taken us one step forward. The question we are now asking ourselves Do we unfreeze this program and make the most of the current international climate? There is a consensus on the need to move forward. The question is, however, in what direction. Some have reservations, others are hesistant, and some have yet to decide. In any case, we must admit we do not have all the time in the world, and that our interests will not be helped if we allow ourselves the luxury of political sophistry. Our people's cause may be advanced or set back by every word we say. The question is: Will we make a move in the next few days?

[Al-Barqawi] You say some have yet to decide. But Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, is reported to have said during recent meetings of Palestinian leaders in Tunis: "Some of us may find we are forced to withdraw if you persist in this position." He means acceptance of UN Resolution No 181. How accurate is the report?

[Khalaf] I think this is exaggeration. Nayif Hawatimah did not say so. Indeed, the DFLP strove for the interim program, and I believe it is working to create a mechanism for this program. This may be true as far as the PFLP is concerned. Brothers in this group have their own thoughts regarding the size of the step we are contemplating at this stage. Nevertheless, the PFLP has sought to approach the matter with reason. We must listen to all viewpoints and discuss them with an open mind. But we must make a decision at some point. We must discharge our historic responsibilities.

[Al-Barqawi] Is there full harmony in Fatah on this issue?

[Khalaf] Very much so, particularly in the Central Committee. True, there is a little difference, but in essence there is no difference on the importance of this step at the current stage.

[Al-Barqawi] Is there harmony with those inside [the occupied territories]?

[Khalaf] Look, I am one of those who say that those inside have given us extra power by the blood and souls of the martyrs. But, if we freeze the resolution, then this means we are giving up our responsibility and giving up our leadership, especially as we are the ones who lead the resistance. Therefore, we should not make those inside shoulder more than they can bear. In Call No 24 of the unified leadership, there was a part which says: We look upon the PNC to take responsible and important resolutions. On national independence, the call stated that those inside consider the PLO and whatever resolutions it makes as an indisputable matter.

[Al-Barqawi] A few days ago, you talked about what you termed as "historic legitimacy" and "international legitimacy." When an agreement is achieved according to international legitimacy, what will remain of the historic legitimacy?

[Kha'af] There will remain the people and the people's land, and that is the important thing. If history did not have a people and a land to back it, then there can be no materialization [of aspirations]. The Palestinians are not Armenians or red Indians—even if this land, on which we will establish our independent state, does not represent all our historic ambition at the current stage.

For 40 years, we have been talking about the balance of power while we had enough causes for weakness to make us settle for chatting alone. The real balance of power is now represented by the uprising, by the Jordanian decision to disengage relations, and by international detente, which should not cancel the Palestinian equation until there are other circumstances. Here I must point out that if a leadership does not have historic insights, which it should correctly employ, then peoples will be crushed, and they will not find anyone to support them.

For 14 years, we have been calling for a Palestinian state. We have been calling for the right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of the independent Palestinian state on any part of Palestine. This is a convenient issue. But when we ask ourselves why, then we have before us either war or settlement due to a limited balance of power. We are not capable of war, and Arab regimes have practically decided since the Fes summit to stop war. The Palestinians therefore remained fighting alone.

Meanwhile, after the 1982 Beirut battle, after the siege, and after the setbacks that were created for us by some Arabs, came the uprising, which is now entering its 10th month. This uprising has given us great momentum. The issue is not that of 10 months or more, but that of the accumulations, which created this state of affairs over the past 20 years. Therefore, if at this stage there are no results and if the leadership does not move and shoulder its responsibility and declare something on the level of international legitimacy, particularly if we want a settlement, then we do not want to talk about settlement. Moreover, there is no international legitimacy, and this is difficult after the war option has been canceled.

Under these circumstances, we need an initiative to prove to our people that we exist on the political map, so that there will be a goal for the continuation of revolution and struggle. We cannot say "no" while we are here in Tunis, Sanaa, or Algiers. Since the opportunity is there, we must take it.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you not believe that accepting international legitimacy contradicts the Palestine National Charter?

[Khalaf] I believe that we confuse issues when we talk about a short-term solution in terms of the charter, historical rights, and principled issues. Our agreement in 1974 was short-term, representing the current conditions within what is possible on the international and Arab levels. This does not require invoking the charter or historical rights. Why? If we invoke these things, we either have to ignore the charter, and hence our history, or do away with the charter, which means throwing down our cards when our enemy is not offering anything. Leave the charter aside. It is a historical document, which we will leave for future generations. We have to take an interest in the short-term solution.

[Al-Barqawi] In your opinion, the Palestinian uprising is not an act of liberation but a form of political struggle. You add that the uprising has elevated us to a good level. But there should be other steps that the Palestinian leadership is aware of. What are these steps?

[Khalaf] The uprising is more than a political action. It is a passive popular struggle that has assumed a active form. The stone has become a bomb.

The uprising is an act of struggle in the full sense of the word. I think that over the past 50 years, nothing like the uprising has emerged in people's struggles against occupation. However, if we hold the uprising responsible for crowning this phase, the Palestinian leadership will be selfish. This means that we hold the uprising responsible for establishing a state with all the consequences arising from this.

The uprising has been able to make the job of the occupation authorities very tough. It proved to the world that the Palestinian people reject the occupation and that the defeat of this occupation is not only a Palestinian or Arab demand but an international desire as well.

This is the value of the uprising now and in the future. However, there should be a push represented by a political step without stopping the uprising. The uprising should escalate until the Palestinian people realize their demands and speed up the convocation of the international conference if it transpires that this is the best solution. We in the PLO consider such a conference an important channel.

[Al-Barqawi] There is a discussion of the several channels through which the legal and administrative committee can preserve the aim, clarity, and realism of the initiative. Can we talk about such channels? Are there clear-cut scenarios?

[Khalaf] When we propose a political step, we are supposed to take into consideration and insist on our historical rights, given that Palestine is our land. Meanwhile, we should look into the international solutions to find ways to attain our rights.

Resolutions are not adopted haphazardly. Every resolution has its practical results. Resolution No 181 for instance allows for the establishment of two states in Palestine, one Palestinian and one Israeli. This raises the question: Should we accept Israel or remove it? An answer to this question requires a political decision and will touch the sentiments of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. On the other hand the question is raised: Do we want to establish a state or not? And because our people have been suffering since the twenties, it is time someone took action, otherwise we will lose the opportunity.

[Al-Barqawi] It becomes clear from PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad's statements that the extraordinary PNC session will be held in October. Tunisia had expressed a strong desire to host this session. Do you believe that this will have a negative impact on Palestinian-Tunisian relations?

[Khalaf] It has been agreed to convene the PNC session in any Arab capital that agrees to host it, whether Algiers or Tunis. The truth is that the issue is not that important. We highly value Tunisia's support for the Palestinian revolution over the years, support which no other Arab country has provided. Tunisia hosted the PLO leaders and institutions. This is something we cannot deny. Algeria too has offered us much and has enabled us to freely adopt decisions at the PNC session. We are still carefully studying this issue, and we have not yet decided where the PNC will meet. Some are inclined to hold it in Algiers. We are holding contacts with both countries to reach an agreement that would satisfy all parties concerned.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that the date of 5 October is a suitable one and are the circumstances completely propitious?

[Khalaf] If you mean that we must consult the 5 million Palestinians, then we will have to wait for another 5 years. We must act as quickly as possible.

I believe that the Palestinian revolution needs to make a decision. We have to face everybody with this decision in spite of our knowledge that it will draw many reactions and vilifications. Rejection is easy and convenient but acceptance is difficult. It is easy for a leadership to adopt a rejectionist position just to maintain its personal interests, but positive talk stemming from a search for means that would achieve incremental objectives is what is difficult. Israel would like nothing better than to hear the Palestinians say that they want to push it in the sea. We must be realistic and adopt a decision that is up to the level of the uprising and the revolution.

[Al-Barqawi] In a statement following one of its meetings, the PLO Executive Committee positively assessed the Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan and Egypt. On the same day, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat attacked King Husayn on Radio Mediterranean. Is there any contradiction? What is the true Palestinian position on Jordan?

[Khalaf] In spite of all that has been said in this respect, the Jordanian step on disengagement with the West Bank is a courageous step and is in the interest of the Palestinian people and their struggle. Once again, I would like to affirm that, irrespective of its motives, the Jordanian step has fulfilled one of the Palestinian people's demands and has forced matters in the Middle East to adopt a new course that will compel Israel, particularly the Labor Party to change its policy on the Jordanian option and forget about it. The Jordanian step has benefited the Palestinian people's struggle.

There are still some details to be ironed out in the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. What about the Palestinians who hold Jordanian passports and live in Jordan? Are they Palestinians or Jordanians? We refuse to accept that the Palestinians' nationality be revoked; otherwise, we would be accepting the policy of resettlement. King Husayn also rejects the idea of a substitute homeland. If we announce that the Palestinian in Jordan cannot declare his affiliation, then this will be a big step on the road to resettlement and the relinquishment of more than 1 million Palestinians. If such a step takes place, then this will also apply to the Palestinians in Syria and Lebanon. This means that the cause will be settled outside the borders and will only be confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We have no objection that Palestinians in Jordan continue to live as Jordanian citizens until the establishment of the Palestinian state. But do not these Palestinians have the right during this period to participate in Palestinian activities that are related to the PLO?

The Jordanian brothers say that this issue must not be discussed now. We agree to this. But to raise it in another form means to us that there is a resettlement conspiracy as has been revealed in some documents pertaining to the resettlement of Palestinians in Al-Azraq and northern Lebanon. The Palestinians in any case have always rejected the idea of a substitute homeland.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems the Egyptian stand toward Palestinians has developed and that Egyptian-Palestinian relations have become warmer?

[Khalaf] King Husayn's decision to disengage ties enjoyed Egypt's satisfaction and resolved the problem of Jordanian-Palestinian dualism. Egypt suffered much from this problem. Some Egyptian politicians were advocating the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement although Jordan canceled it. But now, Egyptian policy concentrates on the fact that the PLO is the basis. This satisfies us, and I believe relations are better now.

[Al-Barqawi] The Palestinian situation in Lebanon is somewhat calm. Do you believe this calm will last or will there be surprises?

[Khalaf] The Palestinian situation in Lebanon cannot be separated from what is taking place there. In my opinion, all forces obstructing the presidential elections want to place Lebanon in a very serious phase. This means the phase of actual partition has begun.

The anticipated scenario if elections are not held on 23 September is that the president of the republic, based on his constitutional powers, may form an untraditional government. A mini-cabinet led by a Maronite is naturally rejected by other parties which will insist on retaining the Salim al-Huss cabinet or forming another cabinet. Hence, there may be two cabinets in Lebanon with each cabinet running the areas it governs. This will mean actual partition. On the other hand, Lebanon will, in the future, turn into an arena of conflict among several Arab axes. This may be more serious than what happened in 1975 and 1976. This is because there will be parties supporting East Beirut while others will support West Beirut, so the Lebanese people will be the victims. In this context, I appeal to all parties, whether Lebanese or Arab, to work for the unity of Lebanon which is facing total destruction. If this fails, then the Palestinians residing in Lebanon, against their will, will be forced to be one of the Arab axes. Consequently, the magnitude of this axis will not be less than that of other axes. Such axes do not exist except through their physical presence; they can exist through weapons, intelligence services, and other means.

[Al-Barqawi] While in Libya to mark the 1 September 1969 revolution anniversary, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] claimed that 'Arafat dispatched Palestinian forces to Lebanon.

[Khalaf] We do not deny this. Since we left Lebanon in 1982, we decided to return Palestinian fighters to Beirut to protect the Palestinian camps there.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that the U.S. decision not to continue work to close down the PLO offfice at the UN Headquarters in New York is a development in U.S. policy? What are the reasons for such development?

[Khalaf] This U.S. step was positive. The real reason for it is the conflict between the United States as the country hosting the UN Headquarters and the United Nations itself. When all UN member states, except the United States and Israel, voted in favor of keeping the PLO office open, the United States found it necessary to reconsider its calculations.

Although the U.S. decision was positive, we should not be too optimistic. The loud voices which called for moving the UN Headquarters from New York were not only in favor of the PLO but also for the sake of a principled position. This changed the U.S. attitude. If the United States had insisted on its position then it would have lost the friendship of all Arab states. The uprising caused a little change and I have mentioned the main reasons.

[Al-Barqawi] The West European position has an important role to play. How does the European group view the current developments?

[Khalaf] I believe the positions of the European group are improving. The group's political decisions are realistic enough to go beyond U.S. policy regarding the stand toward the PLO. I expect semi-unanimous European support for what the PLO will embark on.

Correction to 'Arafat Address to Palestinians

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Arafat Addresses Palestinians on 'Liberation,'" published in the 8 September Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 3-5:

page 4, paragraph one, sentence five should read: ...make us despair, financially, politically, administratively, and revolutionarily, forgetting or pretending... (supplying indistinct words)

same page, paragraph two, sentence one should read: ...representative of our Palestinian people, the leader of... (supplying indistinct words)

Same page, paragraph eight, sentence two should read: ...This calls for more organization, more organization, and more organization. You have demonstrated... (rewording sentence)

Page five, first paragraph, sentence one should read: ...our valiant wounded, our courageous detainees. We are in the last part of the night. And whenever it becomes darkest, the break of dawn approaches. The fiercest and most difficult battles are fought in this eventful and dangerous period. Have we not lost the leader, the symbol Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in this period? Have we not lost in this period at a moment of treachery and truce Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah? Vigilance and more... (supplying indistinct passage)

Same page, paragraph, sentence four to the end of the paragraph should read: ...Victory is close. We have an appointment with glad tidings. God made it a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts: In any case, there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verses] Glory, all the glory... (supplying indistinct passage)

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Agrees To Meet Reagan, Peres

NC0909103788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that he will respond to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's call to hold a meeting between him and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in New York on 26 September.

In a statement published by the Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid says: We consider this call part of the U.S. efforts to activate the peace process in the region. He adds: We consider this a positive move, and we support it.

Concerning Egypt's stand on the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Abd al-Majid said: We must first wait to see what the Palestinian side decides.

Ceausescu Arrives in Cairo for Short Visit

NC0909111988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has arrived in Cairo for a visit of several hours. Receiving him at the airport were President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior government officials. The Romanian leader was accorded an official reception.

Leaders Reject Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

NC0909103988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian opposition party leaders have expressed their utmost indignation and rejection of statements by Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in his 1 September speech, in which he attacked Egypt and its people and president.

In exclusive statements to MENA correspondent 'Ali Hasan, the opposition party leaders said that any attack on the Egyptian president is denounced by the entire Egyptian people and opposition. The opposition party leaders noted that Al-Qadhdhafi's statements fall outside the framework of politics and genuine conduct of foreign relations among states, nor do they serve Arab solidarity and joint action.

NPUG party leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din commented on Al-Qadhdhafi's remarks in his 1 September speech published in Egyptian newspapers in which he said he will support the Egyptian opposition and official and unofficial parties to confront the regime and he assailed the president using vulgar language. Muhyi al-Din said: I stress that the NPUG opposes any attack on any friendly or unfriendly Arab leader. We are against assailing Arab heads of state, therefore we reject any attack on President Mubarak of Egypt. We view any scurrilous attack on the Egyptian president as a matter of concern. Therefore, we reject and condemn this. It is improper for any head of state, no matter who, to attack other heads of state. However, Muhyi al-Din added, he can declare a difference of opinion and policy with another state, as any party leader announces political differences with the head of state, without assailing one particular person.

Khalid Muhyi al-Din voiced his astonishment over Al-Qadhdhafi's statement in which he said he will support the Egyptian opposition to confront the regime. Muhyi al-Din went on to say that he could not imagine that the opposition would accept receiving support from a head of another state against its government. This step, Muhyi al-Din added, is illegitimate, undiplomatic, and does not serve Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

For his part, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said: We reject such statements and do not consider them as part of those political statements on which we comment. Murad added that Col al-Qadhdhafi's statement represents a total departure from the framework of politics and the sound course of international relations. He pointed out that the foreign policy of any state is based on the mutual interests among countries. Assailing presidents, however, does not achieve any political objective. The colonel should not have made such meaningless remarks about a head of a fraternal state like Egypt.

Ummah Party leader Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabahi also commented on Al-Qadhdhafi's statement, saying: We denounce the colonel's claims, slanders, and lies. We always support President Mubarak. Although we differ with him over certain domestic issues, which is certainly legal under the canopy of democracy, we agree with him on foreign policy. Shaykh al-Sabahi added: We have confidence in Mubarak's patriotism and his dedication to Egypt. We support him against any attack or slander against him or Egypt. Shaykh al-Sabahi declared that the Egyptian people denounce Al-Qadhdhafi's statements and ask him to speak for himself only. Al-Qadhdhafi should see himself through the eyes of others, because the entire world looks at him as a mad man. The Ummah Party leader pointed out that the Egyptian people feel only goodwill toward the Libyan people and are confident that the Libyan people do not support Al-Qadhdhafi but always support Egypt, its leader, and people.

Ghali Says Egypt To 'Recognize' PNC Decision

NC0809155588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt will be the first state to recognize the step which the Palestine National Council [PNC] will announce at its next meeting. He said that

Egyptian-Palestinian contacts are continuing and that Egyptian diplomacy is interested in the Palestinian cause, which is the cause of all Arabs.

Dr Ghali described King Husayn's decision to break legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank as the most important and serious decision on the issue since 1948. He called for embarking quickly on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Dr Ghali said this in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA'.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Economy Minister

PM0709124588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Sep 88 pp 46-47

[Interview with Egyptian Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa by Amir al-Zahhar in Cairo, date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What are the latest economic developments in Egypt?

Mustafa: In the late 1970's and early 1980's the Egyptian economy witnessed a high growth rate. The average increase in the GNP was about 8 percent. That high growth was attributed to suitable conditions existing at the time, namely the availability of foreign currency, because oil prices were high, as were Egypt's foreign currency revenues, remittances from Egyptians working abroad, Suez Canal revenues, and other revenues. However, after 1982 and 1983 the world economic situation in general began to change. Growth rates began to slow down and drop in many states. With regard to Egypt, foreign currency resources began to decline as a result of the slump in oil prices. The same thing happened to resources from all other free currencies.

Since then, the government has taken a series of integrated measures to tackle the new challenges. The aim has been to gradually remedy the deficit in the general state budget, repair existing defects in the price system, and remedy the deficit in the trade balance and current transactions in general. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What are the latest developments in the investment companies case, especially in view of the new law regulating such activities?

Mustafa: All I want to say in this regard is that we encourage investment in general and consider that Egypt's economic future depends on attracting and boosting more investment. So we welcome any national, Arab, or foreign investors, facilitate investment procedures for them, and work to eliminate any obstacles facing them. However, there must be rules for investment to ensure that it remains within channels which will benefit the national economy and contribute to general development in the country.

AL-HAWADITH: What about protecting depositors' funds, and what role will the investment companies be required to play?

Mustafa: The law was passed to regulate the activities of these companies and is bound to bolster and protect them as well as depositors in the sense that these funds and these activities, like other activities and enterprises, must serve the national economy. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In view of the situation concerning banks and investment companies and in view of current discussions over bank interest rates, will the interest rate be increased?

Mustafa: Studies and discussions are being conducted as to whether to increase the interest rate. It is clear that an increase can produce both positive and negative results. Moreover, the current price situation also has negative and positive aspects. When studies are completed, a suitable decision will be made by weighing up the situation and considering which method would be more advantageous in attracting more deposits, without opening the door to higher inflation. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: After the resumption of full diplomatic relations with most of the Arab states, how are economic relations between Egypt and its sisters?

Mustafa: The volume of trade between Egypt and the Arab states in 1982/83 was about 268 million pounds. It increased to 445 million pounds in 1986/87. Egyptian exports to the Arab brothers have increased markedly: Exports increased from 109 million pounds in 1982 to 170 million pounds in 1987. The major Arab trade partners with Egypt are Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Kuwait, Jordan, and Iraq. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Deplores Closure of Nasirite Weekly

PM0809123388 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[Tal'at Rumayh report: "Story of SAWT AL-'ARAB's Closure and Arrest of Its Chief Editor Serious Precedent in Mubarak Era and Violation of All Laws"]

[Excerpt] Last Saturday evening State Security Intelligence closed the Nasirite weekly newspaper SAWT AL-'ARAB, seizing its films, machines, and printing plates, as well as the printed copies of issue No 107. Yesterday morning its chief editor was released after a 48-hour investigation after the Journalists Union intervened to reduce his bail from 10,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds. The closure in fact violates the rules of law (even the emergency law). Moreover, the chief editor of SAWT AL-'ARAB was arrested without any legal grounds.

Political circles believe that the declared reasons for the closure do not justify such aggression against the freedom of the press, which had been the last card in the government's hand. At its meeting last Sunday evening

the Labor Party [SLP] Executive Committee discussed this serious development and denounced it. It was alarmed by AL-AHRAM's collusion with the closure decision, namely its seizure of newsprint needed to print the paper. The committee urged [SLP leader] Ibrahim Shukri to urgently contact and consult with party leaders to coordinate positions against the authorities. Party representatives are expected to meet with Dr 'Ali Lutfi in his capacity as chairman of of the High Press Council and Ibrahim Nafi' as leader of the Journalists Union.

On Tuesday evening the High State Security Prosecution summoned 'Abd al-'Azim Manaf, chief editor and chairman of the board of directors [of SAWT AL-'ARAB]. He was interrogated and charged with insulting the monarch of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, King Fahd, in the previous issue. After investigations were compieted, the prosecution decided to release him, but it recalled him Saturday evening for investigation regarding the report submitted by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which accuses him of damaging the state's high interests.

On Sunday evening the prosecution issued a decision to release Manaf on 10,000 pounds' bail, but he refused to pay the sum in accordance with Clause 135 of the Criminal Procedures Law, which does not allow precautionary imprisonment for crimes committed by the newspapers. Clause 146 of the same law also makes the release of a person conditional on payment of bail except in cases where precautionary imprisonment is allowed.

Security organs exerted strong pressure to prevent the confiscated issue of SAWT AL-'ARAB from being printed. They actually succeeded in delaying the printing process as the paper could not obtain the newsprint it needed for a print run. But AL-AHALI lent it paper and the printing process was actually restarted.

The security organs closed the paper, as mentioned earlier, without obtaining a warrant from the prosecution office under the emergency law which is in effect in the country and which allows officials of closed papers, on the basis of the prosecution's warrant, to refer the matter to the chief of the Southern Cairo Court for deciding whether to implement or reject the closure decision.

This measure and the way it was taken is the first serious precedent in President Husni Mubarak's era.

Meanwhile AL-SHA'B has learned that on the Sunday before last, high-level officials in the state gave the green light to State Security Intelligence organs to close the paper.

AL-SHA'B has also learned that President Mubarak had personally contacted the Saudi monarch and expressed Egypt's high appreciation of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, stressing that what was published can in no way affect Egyptian-Saudi relations. Mubarak said that SAWT AL-'ARAB does not express the views of the government or those of any of the recognized legitimate parties. [passage omitted]

Libya

Tunisia Reportedly Sponsors Libya-U.S. Contacts

JN0809152688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Rabat, AL-ITTIHAD—An Arab ministerial source in Rabat has told AL-ITTIHAD that Libyan-U.S. contacts were lately repeated in an attempt to resolve differences between the two sides and that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is exerting efforts in this regard.

The same source added that Libya's UN representative, 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, has held high-level talks with U.S. officials in New York and Washington. The results of these talks were encouraging. He pointed out that Tunis, which is sponsoring part of the contacts, conveyed the conditions of Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Washington to open a new page in the relations. The most prominent of these conditions was the recognition of Libya's sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra.

Information Officials on Cooperation With Iraq

LD0809190188 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture yesterday met the Iraqi culture and information minister in Baghdad yesterday [as received].

The Iraqi News Agency reported that the meeting centered on means of bolstering cooperation between the great Jamahiriyah and Iraq in the fields of culture and information.

Chadian POW's To Be Released

LD0809115288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA)—JANA has learned that on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih, and out of the desire of the great Jamahiriyah and its people that the brotherly Chadian people take part in the joy of this occasion through the return of its prisoners of war, the Jamahiriyah has provided all facilities for the return of the Chadian prisoners to their families.

JANA has also learned that Chad and the OAU have been informed so that they may hand these prisoners over to their families.

Al-Qadhdhafi Greets Gorbachev on Cosmonauts

LD0809190388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a message congratulations to Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the safe return of the space capsule and its crew. Here is the text of the message:

Dear friend, Mikhail Gorbachev, the secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee:

We congratulate you and the Soviet Union on the safe return of the space capsule and the escape of its crew from danger resulting from the difficulties they had encountered while carrying out their duties. We also congratulate the Soviet scientists for their technological ability and capability, which enabled the spacecraft to land safely, without damage. The courage of the crew was bolstered by these advanced technological efforts, which helped avert a disaster.

I assure you that any scientific and technological victory by the Soviet Union in the technological field and conquest of outer space is a gain for the forces of socialism, progress, and peace in the world.

I express my esteem to you and my good wishes to the people of the USSR for progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Sudan

Union Party Rejects Unity Plan With Libya

NC0409193988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, has emphasized his rejection of a statement issued recently by the Sudanese Al-Ummah Party detailing a formula of unitary action between Sudan and Libya. He said this formula was not presented to the Unionist Party, so the party cannot express an opinion and will not discuss it.

In a statement issued today, Al-Mirghani warned against exploiting the current situation in Sudan and its ordeals to bring pressure to bear on the Sudanese people. He added: We do not want to engage in imaginary and peripheral battles against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, because we harbor all respect and feelings of good neighborliness for its people, but we will never bargain with Sudan's security, safety, and democratic status.

Al-Mirghani went on to say that any form of unity like this is a waste of time, because anything established on falsehood is false. He added: We are unionists, and unity is a slogan and sublime objective to which we aspire for a national and pan-Arab principle. However, we move without haste and do not take improvised steps. We should take into consideration all the previous unitary experiments and study why they failed so that this does not recur.

Congress Party Statement

NC0509135588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1229 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 Sep (MENA)—Andreo Wiw, official spokesman for the Sudanese African Congress, has said that the congress denounces recent reports about unity between Libya and Sudan. The statement to this effect, he said, came as a surprise to the Sudanese African parties and the opposition. He stated that the government is not allowed to negotiate with a foreign country on matters which would deprive the people of their will, describing the statement about unity as compromising Sudan's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Council and secretary general of the Al-Ummah party, was cited by AL-UMMAH today as saying that the statement concerning unity was only a press release made to pave the way for further steps and that it was met with misunderstanding by some people who wanted to make political capital of it. Dr Taj al-Din added that the current circumstances do not allow unity between the two countries and that Sudan respects its distinguished ties with all Arab and friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Plan 'Threatens' Coalition

PM0809135588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Sep 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Plan on Unity With Libya Threatens Al-Mahdi's Government"]

[Text] Khartoum, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudan is on the verge of a severe crisis which threatens to destroy the national accord government headed by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, which comprises six parties other than the ruling Al-Ummah Party.

The crisis erupted after Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that Sudan had submitted a plan for unity with Libya which is currently being studied in both capitals.

Some Sudanese political parties and forces, especially the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]—the major partner in government—said that the announcement, on which a statement was issued by Al-Mahdi, did not express the views of the coalition government and said that his party has nothing to do with it and in fact totally rejects it. The Islamic Front ignored the statement and said in its paper that the agreement is between the Al-Ummah Party and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi only.

It is known that the DUP is opposed to any Libyan-Sudanese rapprochement at the expense of Sudanese-Egyptian relations because the DUP's political fabric is based on strengthening ties between the two parts of the Nile Valley. On the other hand, the Al-Ummah Party does not follow this line but works to build relations according to the party's interests in order to enable it to preserve its grip on the reins of power in Sudan.

Some observers in the Sudanese capital expect Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's announcement of the unity plan in question to cause tension in Sudanese-Egyptian relations, which could adversely affect Egypt's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia on the one hand and between the Sudanese Government and dissidents on the other, unless the Al-Ummah Party can contain the crisis.

There have been increasing fears among the Sudanese people that the military may return to power, especially as some leaflets signed "The Free Officers" have been circulated—which is similar to what happened prior to [former] President Ja'far al-Numayri's coup.

It is known that the statement in question demands that the Sudanese Government pay attention to the problems and worries of the masses, give precedence to this matter, and tackle all problems in Sudan. Thus the chief of staff of the Sudanese Army hastened to make press statements declaring that there were some quarters behind these leaflets, but he did not name them. He emphasized that the armed forces are united to perform their duty and defend the Sudanese people's achievements. He indicated that the Sudanese Army is working hard to avoid interfering in political affairs and is concentrating on its own important tasks.

49 Reportedly Killed in Tribal Feuds

JN0809121888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Sep (SUNA)—Several deputies have called for a dialogue between the tribes in the Jabal Murrah region in order to put an end to the tribal feuds there which have led to the death of more than 49 citizens in the Kas region and threaten to expand further. Reporting this today, the daily AL-SUDANI quotes deputy Ahmad al-Badawi, chairman of the Security Committee, as saying the security situation in the region is serious and that the government must take firm measures to deal with it.

Ibn 'Umar Forces Surrender Arms to Armed Forces

JN0809111788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Sep (SUNA)—Military sources have confirmed that the Armed Forces have received all the weapons which the Ibn 'Umar forces introduced into the Darfur Region last month. The weapons include heavy, medium, and small weapons in addition to other military equipment and several vehicles. The weapons and equipment are being kept with the Armed Forces in the region.

The sources also confirmed that the surrender of weapons took place without any conditions by the Ibn 'Umar forces. They explained that the members of these forces have been massed in the Al-Dakha'im region of northern Darfur pending a decision on their case.

The source added that a delegation of Ibn 'Umar forces is due to arrive in Khartoum soon to settle their case on the political and diplomatic level.

Official Urges Passing Islamic Shari'a Laws

JN0609193888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sep 6 (SUNA)—The Islamic National Front Deputy Secretary General 'Ali 'Uthman Muhamad Taha has stressed the necessity of passing the alternative Islamic shari'a laws before the end of the Constituent Assembly—parliament—current session.

Taha told the daily "ALSYP" here today, that there is unreasonable delay in passing the Islamic laws proposed to substitute those introduced by ousted President Numayri in 1983.

Meanwhile, speaker of the Parliament [name indistinct] had announced yesterday that he contacted Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi on submitting the Islamic laws before the Constituent Assembly shortly. Al-Mahdi has confirmed his government's commitment to the implementation of Islamic laws.

Official Praises Kuwaiti Flood Aid

LD0809192488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1454 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 8 (KUNA)—A prominent Sudanese leader has highly commended Kuwait's contribution to alleviation of the suffering of victims of the torrential rain and rising Nile floods early last month which destroyed close to 100,000 houses and left an estimated two million persons homeless.

Spiritual leader of the Khatmiya sect and president of the Co-Ruling Democratic Unionist Party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani was speaking to newsmen here after returning home last night.

Describing his eight-day stay in Kuwait as "fruitful and positive", Al-Mirghani said he had lengthy talks with the Kuwaiti leadership on the promotion of bilaterial relations in addition to Arab and Islamic issues of mutual concern.

Kuwait is known to have sent over 50 planeloads of urgent aid to Sudan to meet the growing need of the victims of the floods and heavy rainfall and a vessel carrying over 30,000 tons of food and medical suppplies is expected anchor at Port Sudan in the coming two days.

40 Enemy Soldiers Killed in 29 Aug Ambush

EA0809205688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The details of the ambush conducted by SPLA forces of Shakkush Task Force I and II, under the operational command of Captain (Abraham Akoy) and Captain (Majer Ayom Malith) and the overall command of Alternate Commander (John Kong Nyon), deputy zonal commander of Central and Western Equatoria on the enemy troop convoy between Loka and Limbi on the Juba-Yei road on 29 August 1988 have emerged.

According to our correspondent in Yei, the enemy sustained very heavy casualties in men and material. Forty of the enemy soldiers were killed and many seriously injured. The military hospital, our correspondent says, is completely filled up with wounded enemy soldiers, and the rest were taken to Yei civil hospital for admission, where the sick civilians were reportedly discharged to leave space for the wounded enemy soldiers.

The military authorities ordered foreign drivers to donate blood, but the drivers are reported to have refused. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Official on Referendum Date

LD0109205288 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Let us turn to the peace process in Western Sahara with an exclusive report: The Polisario thinks that the referendum on Western Sahara will take place much later than expected. This is according to the Polisario's No 2 person, Bachir Mustapha Sayid, who is in Tunisia now. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Wishes 'Success' for GCC Talks

LD0709145288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1336 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 7 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah Wednesday reiterated that the GCC states are highly concerned with current U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran. Shaykh Sabah, in a statement to reporters wished success for the Geneva talks hoping the two Muslim neighbours reach an agreement that would resolve their conflict and bring peace and stability back to the region. Asked whether the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had contacted countries of the region to participate in formulating a peace proposal, he said "We are confident in the secretary general and we hope that his peace efforts would reach success". On GCC backing efforts of the Geneva negotiations, the chief diplomat, pointed out that the Ministerial Council of the GCC had assigned, during its recent meetings in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the council's General Secretariat to consult and contact Perez de Cuellar and parties of the conflict on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council to push forward the peace process.

Danish Foreign Minister Discusses Ties, Gulf

LD0509115588 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Official talks were held this morning between Kuwait and Denmark at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Kuwaiti side was headed by Mas'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs and the Danish side by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, foreign minister.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told KUNA that a number of issues were discussed, the most important of which were bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and how to develop them, and relations between the GCC and European Common Market states. He added that discussions also addressed the situation in the Gulf, particularly current peace talks between Iraq and Iran under UN auspices. The two sides expressed hope that these talks will lead to positive results, to the benefit of this vital region of the world. The talks also addressed the Palestinian issue in light of the Palestinian people's uprising. The two sides emphasized the need for the world to give utmost attention to human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

The Danish foreign minister invited the minister of state for foreign affairs to visit Denmark whenever appropriate. The meeting was attended by Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary of state for foreign affairs, and a number of senior ministry officials.

United Arab Emirates

President, 'Arafat on Arab Issues, Relations

JN0809111288 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today. They reviewed the present Arab situation, area developments, the Palestine question in light of the latest developments and the continuing heroic uprising in the occupied homeland, and efforts to establish peace between Iraq and Iran.

The two leaders expressed hope that the current Iraqi-Iranian talks in Geneva will achieve solutions that help overcome the obstacles, consolidate the cease-fire, and establish a lasting peace between the two states on bases that guarantee their common interests, guarantee that tension will not be renewed, and establish complete peace and security in the region.

His highness the president reaffirmed to Yasir 'Arafat the UAE's support for any decision made by the PLO which the PLO believes serves the objectives of regaining the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Humayd Nasir al-'Uways, minister of electricity and water; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry undersecretary; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member; and Khalid Malik, charge d'affaires of the PLO office in the UAE, attended the meeting.

New Iranian Cease-Fire Violations Reported

JN0809193688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The Iranian forces have continued their violations of the cease-fire despite Iraq's frequent warnings through the UN observers.

INA has learned that the Iraqi forces have informed the UN observers of the new Iranian violations. The UN observers noted the following violations:

In the I Army Corps sector, six enemy personnel attempted to approach our positions at 0930 [0530] on 6 September. They were warned and forced to withdraw. At 0930 and 0945 on 7 September, two enemy vehicles carrying enemy personnel attempted to approach our positions in the special I Army Corps sector. They were warned and forced to withdraw.

In the II Army Corps sector, a UN observers' patrol saw on the morning of 7 September two new observation posts the enemy set up in front of our positions. At 0730 and 1615 on the same day four new firing positions the enemy had set up with sand bags were seen at the front boundary of our positions. At 1615 an enemy group, probably an infantry squad, was seen occupying the red square of the Iranian rampart in front of the opening of the hill.

In the III Army Corps, at 1740 on 6 September, an enemy group was seen setting up coils of barbed wire in positions in front of our units. Necessary measures were taken to deal with the situation.

Geneva Mission Statement on 8th War Anniversary

JN0509055888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] The permanent mission of the Republic of Iraq at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva today issued a statement on the eighth anniversary of the armed Iranian aggression against Iraq. In the statement, the Iraqi mission reviewed the aggression that Iraq was subjected to during the past 8 years by the Iranian regime which was motivated by its expansionist policies. The statement reviews the aggressive provocations carried out by the Iranian regime against Iraq since it assumed power in Tehran in February 1979 and its violations of the principles of goodneighborliness.

The statement concludes: This anniversary comes as signs of peace appear through the direct talks between Iraq and Iran in Geneva. The international community should recall the realities which led to this dispute and the complete responsibility of the Iranian regime for its outbreak.

Hammadi Denies Use of Chemical Weapons

JN0909114488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] London, 9 Sep (WAKH)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has once again rebutted the accusations leveled against Iraq that it uses chemical weapons against the Kurds. He said that the Kurdish refugees have left the country as a result of the fighting which is raging in northern Iraq and not as a result of the use of chemical weapons.

In an interview broadcast on Radio London this morning, the Iraqi minister said he told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his meeting with him in Washington last night that Iraq is the only country which has granted the Kurds autonomous rule, and that the Kurdish people's rights and status in Iraq are certainly better than what they enjoy in any other country.

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi added that he explained to Shultz some of the traits of the autonomy rule, the Kurds' participation in the central government, and the political, economic, and cultural rights they enjoy. He said he had also explained to the U.S. secretary of state how Jalal Talabani and his group had clearly committed treason when they directly cooperated with the Iranian forces when the latter occupied the Halabjah area in northern Iraq. He explained that Jalal Talabani's group had imposed terrorism on the northern area and on the local inhabitants there, stressing that his government has the right to restore security and order to that area.

Dr Hammadi said that many Kurds have left their homes for fear they might be punished for giving refuge to or helping rebels. Hammadi stated that Iraq had granted a general amnesty to all Kurdish refugees and to all those who have carried out actions in violation of the law with the exception of Jalal Talabani.

On the U.S. threat that relations between the two countries may be affected if Iraq continues to use chemical weapons, as the U.S. claims, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that he had reiterated to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Iraq's categorical rebuttal of using chemical weapons. He said that when Iraq resumed diplomatic relations with the United States, it explained from the beginning that relations must be based on sincerity, loyalty, common interests, and on the principles of the respect of sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs, and that if the United States does the same then Iraq will be ready to develop its relations with the United States and other countries on this basis.

RCC Issues Decree Pardoning Prisoners, Detainees

JN0809171188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—The RCC issued a decree today pardoning prison inmates and detainees except those convicted of espionage, drug trafficking, robbery,

Army desertion, evasion of military service, fleeing the country, as well as other crimes. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council

Decree No 735

Date of decree: 8 September 1988

Decree: In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC in its session on 8 September 1988 decreed the following:

1. Prison inmates and detainees covered by this decree will be pardoned for the rest of their prison terms and as follows:
   A. Political prisoners except those who were convicted for their affiliation with hireling Iranian movements.
   B. Those convicted of economic crimes and as follows:
      - Those who received a prison sentence not less than 10 and not more than 15 years provided they have served at least 1 year.
      - Those who received a 10 year imprisonment term.
   C. Those who were convicted for committing assaults on people, except those who committed premeditated murders.
   D. Those who comitteed traffic crimes.
   E. Those convicted for committing self-inflicted injury unless this was to evade miltary service or fight in the war.
2. This pardon does not cover the following:
   A. Espionage.
   B. Drugs.
   C. Robbery.
   D. Deserting the Army, evading military service or fleeing the country.
   E. Failure to obey military orders.
   F. Sodomy.
   G. Incest.
3. This pardon does not cover those whose prison terms have already been commuted.
4. A special pardon will be granted to inmates and detainees who were convicted of crimes other than those in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this decree.
5. The special pardons stipulated in Paragraphs 1 and 4 do not cover those who received death sentences and those who returned to the homeland after being granted a pardon within a general or special amnesty for their previous crimes.
6. The provisions of this decree affect those sentences or terms considered irrevocable before it takes effect.
7. A committee from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry as well as the concerned departments will be formed to supervise the implementation of this decree.
8. This decree will be effective as of the date of its issuance, and the those concerned will implement it.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman

23d Arab Information Ministers Conference Begins

'Izzat Ibrahim Opens Talks

JN0609145488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The meetings of the 23d session of the Arab information ministers' conference began here today.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim opened the session with a speech. He began by conveying President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the conferees and wishes of success to their session. He said: Your meeting is being held in Baghdad today while it is celebrating the days of victory and peace. He said that Iraq's great steadfastness and valiant fighting and sacrifices were crowned by victory. He added that the aggressors' defeat was not only a military one, but a defeat of an entire approach. He said: We mean by this the approach of aggression and expansion and what is included in this approach in terms of evil ideas that are hidden behind the true Islamic religion and with which religion has nothing to do. This is because the essence of the conflict was not only a military one, but a conflict between two contradictory approaches regarding relations among states and a conflict between two ways of life in which the approach of justice, peace, and right triumphed over the other contradictory approach. The defeat of the other approach was inevitable.

He praised the role played by the sincere Arab news and culture media in explaining Iraq's peaceful stands and in exposing the aggressors' false claims and evil actions and their adherence to the course of aggression and expansion. He said: I greet you, and on behalf of President Saddam Husayn, I greet you, the honest Arab men concerned with media and culture. I also laud your great and positive contributions. He pointed out that these contributions were a stab in the back of the aggressors and a ointment for the brave Iraqi fighters' wounds. He said: In fact, these contributions have alleviated our suffering from the treacherous blows directed against us by that strange side that claims to be affiliated with the Arab nation and that capitalizes on the Arab nation's most sacred issues—that side has been and is still seeking to create facts in the interest of the enemies of God who have designs on the Arab homeland and its resources.

'Izzat Ibrahim assailed the Iranian rulers who ignited the war through their interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, their aggressions against its territory, cities, and border posts, their frank threats to invade it, their large-scale aggression against it on 4 September 1980, and their insistence on continuing the war for the past 8 years. Despite all Iraq's peace initiatives and the Islamic and international mediations and efforts, they did not accept Resolution No 598 out of their conviction of peace and its virtues, but only because they were forced to as a

result of their defeats on the fronts. Had they continued to reject this resolution for 2 more months, they would have met with inevitable disaster.

He stressed that the Iranian rulers do not want to establish a just, honorable, lasting, and comprehensive peace on a firm and entrenched basis that would stand fast before fluctuations. However, they want to achieve a temporary settlement; that is, in its atmosphere, its tensions, and the possibilities of going back on it—closer to a truce than to peace. It is a settlement that includes regional gains which they seek to achieve at the expense of Iraq and its national rights, and a settlement which they want to make their price for accepting Resolution No 598.

'Izzat Ibrahim stressed that Iraq did not fight for 8 years for this kind of truce. He also stressed that Iraq did not make its known sacrifices to offer Iran territorial gains at its expense for just one particle of the soil of its chaste land, especially as Iraq is the victor and Iran the vanquished, and a victor does not allow a loser to use extortion. He said the Iranian rulers' acceptance of Resolution No 598 is not a concession they made to accept something in return. He said they accepted because they wanted to rescue their system and Iran itself from a certain catastrophe.

He affirmed that there is a historic opportunity to establish a comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries and in the entire area. He said: We call on the Iranian rulers to take this opportunity and work with Iraq in a new spirit in order to achieve this noble objective, to stop maneuvers and means of deception, and to completely abandon the course of aggression, expansion, and seeking territorial gains at the expense of Iraq or others. We are realistic and practical to the extent that we do not think for one moment of wasting the opportunity for peace that has been created by the blood of our sons. On the other hand, we cannot accept the Iranian rulers' attempts to circumvent the peace process and incorrectly interpret the contents of Resolution No 598. We absolutely reject any territorial gains by Iran at our expense.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: In our negotiations we reject any vague language or general and in substantial promises in order to reach detailed, clear, and accurately specified agreements about all details of the resolution, procedures for implementing the provisions of the resolution, and timing of implementation to block any attempt to circumvent and evade commitments. He explained that the process of reaching comprehensive, durable, and just peace is another battle that is noticeably hard and complicated. In this battle, we seek to be clearly unequivocal and understood because we have no hidden intentions—only our sincere and faithful quest for peace.

He called on the Arab media to stand alongside Iraq in its peace battle. We seek your support for us in this battle as you did while we were under aggression. Your support had a role in warding off and exposing aggression and pressuring the aggressors and exposing their intentions. We hope this role will continue to expose the Iranian rulers' concealed intentions of circumventing and obstructing the peace process until a comprehensive and durable peace is achieved for the two parties and the entire area and until security, stability, and an appropriate atmosphere for work and construction is achieved.

Ministers Approve Recommendations

JN0709105488 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 7, INA—The Council of Arab Information Ministers approved here, at the end of its 23rd session, recommendations made last Monday by the standing committee of Arab information.

The recommendations call upon the Arab countries to finance the project of the information plan, prepared by the 7-member ministerial committee to back the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people, adopt the project of "The Information Honour Covenant" to support the uprising, through mobilizing Arab masses, espouse idioms and objectives of the uprising and expose Zionist propaganda aimed at frustrating and demoralizing the masses.

The committee recommended setting up a joint Arab strategy for external information, backing Arab-foreign friendship societies and approving "The Arab Call Fund" for 1989. It also requested the federation of Arab broadcasting stations to complement the study started by it on leasing a channel on the Arab space network and to back the project of publishing a feature magazine to introduce Arab-Islamic civilization.

The council of Arab information ministers decided to hold its forthcoming session in Tunis.

INA Interviews Husni Mubarak on Relations

JN0709192988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that relations between Iraq and Egypt were strong even before the war. He said: We consider Iraq our second homeland because the Egyptian in Iraq is like the Iraqi and the Iraqi in Egypt is like the Egyptian. There is no difference between the people here and there. President Mubarak told INA: I came here to congratulate our brothers on their victory and hope that comprehensive and just peace will prevail in the region. The Egyptian feels exactly as I feel in terms of their appreciation for Iraq, the extent of our relationship with Iraq, the extent of the Egyptian people's relationship with Iraq, and the extent of our relationship with the dear brother, President Saddam Husayn, who leads the fraternal country of Iraq, which achieved this victory that we consider ours.

Following is the text of the questions and answers:

Question: Your Excellency Mr President, each day the strong fraternal relationship between Iraq and Egypt grows stronger and the Iraqi victory in its war with Iran has further strengthened this relationship. How can we assess the situation from political, military, and morale aspects?

President Husni Mubarak: In fact, relations between Iraq and Iran were strong even before the war. Even if we differed, it is just like differences between brothers. However, the peoples of both Iraq and Iran can never differ. You know that in all the past circumstances the Egyptians did not hesitate to support Iraq. We will not hesitate at any time because we consider Iraq our second homeland. The Egyptian in Iraq is just like the Iraqi and the Iraqi in Egypt is just like the Egyptian. There is no difference between the people here and there at all.

I would like to say to you that I came here to congratulate the brothers in Iraq for the victory they achieved, hoping that comprehensive and just peace will prevail in the region. I believe that the Egyptian people feel exactly as I feel in terms of the extent of their appreciation for Iraq, the extent of our relations with Iraq, the extent of the Egyptian people's relationship with the Iraqi people or the Iraqi people with the Egyptian people, and the extent of our relationship with the dear brother, President Saddam Husayn, who leads this fraternal country, Iraq, which achieved the victory that we value and consider as our victory. Finally, I hope we will reach just and comprehensive peace in the region so that security and tranquillity will prevail in our Arab region.

Question: Sir, hostile circles continuously express fears over the end of the war and over the emergence of Iraq as victor in this war. Mr President, does this not mean that Iraq's victory will consolidate the Arab position and make it stronger in confronting the Arab nation's enemies?

President Husni Mubarak: We hear many rumors of this sort. They are aimed at inciting differences between Iraq and our Arab brothers in the Arab nation or between Iraq and Egypt. We should not care about these rumors. Direct contacts undermine such rumors. We have continuous contacts with Brother President Saddam Husayn. If I hear something, I pay no attention to it because I know how the brother president and how the Iraqi people feel. I also know how the Egyptian people feel. While in Iraq, the brother president knows more than I do how the Egyptian people feel. The Iraqi people also know how the Egyptian people feel. Therefore, we have to expect such rumors that aim at inciting differences or splitting the Arab ranks. We must not pay attention to such rumors because the victory of Iraq is a victory for all Arab countries, both big and small. We must appreciate this as it is a victory for all of us.

Question: Mr President, there have been reports of Your Excellency's talks with His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the Iran-Iran war and ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran in Geneva. Would you give the Iraqi reader an idea about this?

President Mubarak: At any meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, we must deal with the Iraqi fraternal position. In any meeting with Jordan, we cannot ignore the position of sisterly Iraq in its war with Iran. We talked about this and were happy about the Iraqi victory and praised it a great deal. This is the feeling of everyone in Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. We hope to reach comprehensive and just peace. We hope that Iran will be flexible enough to reach just and comprehensive peace, especially as Iraq has given a great deal to Iran from 1847 until now. Therefore, Iran must be fair during the ongoing talks to make it possible to reach a just peace and reassure the Iraqi people and the Arab people in the region.

Question: Thank you.

The press meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office, Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; the president's secretary; and Hani Wahib, the president's press and information secretary.

Yugoslav UN Commander Slavko Jovic Arrives

JN0809063888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, arrived in Baghdad today. He was received at the airport by the director of public affairs at the Ministry of Defense, the representative of the committee for coordinating with UNIIMOG, and the UN resident representative in Baghdad.

Visiting Hungarian Officials Hold Talks

Meet With Planning Minister

JN0709114988 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept, 7 INA—Mr. Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning and head of the Iraqi side in the Iraqi-Hungarian joint committee met here today Hungarian Foreign Undersecretary Mr. Gabor Nagi and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad, preparations concerning deliberations of the joint committee's forthcoming session scheduled in Budapest on October 10 were discussed.

Received by Information Minister

JN0809085088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister this morning received Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagi. During the meeting, relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and ways to promote them were discussed.

The meeting was attended by the Hungarian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Deliver Message to Ramadan

JN0809151988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received a message from Karoly Grosz, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. The message deals with bilateral relations and Hungary's desire to further promote them. Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagi delivered the message when Ramadan received him and his delegation today.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the two sides' joint desire to find new fields to contribute toward further promoting future cooperation in the economic and trade fields in the interests of the two friendly countries. Gabor Nagi praised Iraq's peaceful stands and sincere efforts to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace.

Ramadan reviewed Iraq's peaceful stands since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on 4 September 1980, its response to all international peace efforts and resolutions, and Iran's rejection of all these efforts and resolutions. He stressed that Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 was due to its inability to continue its aggressions and not because of its desire for peace. He pointed out that Iraq's position on peace is firm, clear, and based on its adherence to all Iraq's legitimate rights.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary and the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Sudanese Official Holds Talks With Ramadan

JN0509193688 Bagdhad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Official and party talks between Iraq and Sudan began at the National Assembly today. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, chaired the Iraqi side in the talks, while the Sudanese side was chaired by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party [DUP].

During the talks, Taha Yasin Ramadan said Iraq's peaceful position on the Geneva negotiations is clear and firm. We will not relinquish any of our rights in favor of Iran, even if such relinquishment is moral and not material, he said. We know that political negotiations will not be easy and that any prevarication will not deter us from our principled position on peace. We will not retreat from this position because we imposed it by force. This is also a basic, not a tactical principle in our policy.

Ramadan pointed out that Iraq approved all international resolutions calling for peace, beginning with the UN Security Council resolution issued on 28 September 1980 and ending with Resolution No 598. Meanwhile, Iran rejected all international mediations and initiatives. The Iraqi people did not await the outcome of negotiations to express their rejoicing over victory. This is because the leadership that managed to realize certain victory throughout 8 years of military battle can also realize victory in the political war despite the prevarications and deception of the Iranians, who try to achieve what they failed to realize by military means.

Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani said: We came to congratulate and bless the decisive victory Iraq has achieved following a lengthy 8-year war. We are carrying the congratulations of the Sudanese people and leadership, he added. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani held a closed meeting prior to the beginning of talks. They discussed fields of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the DUP as well as the importance of promoting fraternal relations betwen Iraq and Sudan. The first deputy prime minister stressed Iraq's firm position that supports and backs the Arab brothers under all conditions in implementation of the instructions of President Saddam Husayn.

During the talks it was decided to form several joint specialized committees in order to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in party, foreign, housing, and awqaf fields. [passage omitted]

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN0509200888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, and the accompanying delegation.

Al-Mirghani congratulated the president leader in the name of the fraternal Sudanese people on the victories scored by our proud people under President leader Saddam Husayn. He also extended thanks, in the name

of the Sudanese Government and people, for the Iraqi aid designed to relieve the fraternal Sudanese people from the catastrophic floods that recently afflicted Sudan.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and the president's secretary.

Discusses Ties With Ramadan

JN0609203588 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 5, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier received here today Mr. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Federative Democratic Party [SFDP], now visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, talks were completed on promoting cooperation between Iraq and Sudan in all fields and between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the SFDP. Mr. Ramadan and Al-Mirghani expressed satisfaction over developing relations between the two countries and stressing serious keeness in joint action for expanding and boosting them in the service of the Arab nation. They also expressed confidence that resutls of the visit would greatly contribute to strengthening the march of bilateral relations between Iraq and Sudan.

Sudanese Delegation Departs

JN0809080088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad tonight after a 3-day visit to Iraq.

He was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; RCC member Hasan 'Ali; a number of ministers; the Baghdad mayor; the Foreign Ministry secretary; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Communique Issued on Visit

JN0809080888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] have called on the international community and the UN Security Council to compel Iran to implement Resolution No 598 according to the sequence of its clauses.

In a joint communique issued in Baghdad today at the end of meetings between their two delegations, the two parties affirmed support for Iraq's sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and the freedom of shipping in the Arabian Gulf, an international waterway, in order to achieve just and lasting peace. The DUP delegation lauded Iraq's turning toward and principled belief in a just peace.

The delegations of the two parties expressed satisfaction at the growth and development of relations between them to promote higher national interests.

Sudan's DUP saluted Iraq's role under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in supporting the Sudanese people in all circumstances.

The two parties condemned all attempts to undermine Sudanese national unity. They urged national forces to oppose internal and external plots. The two parties reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory and the PLO.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation paid tribute to the Sudanese people's national role against dictatorship and foreign subjugation and to their struggle to consolidate their democratic experience. It saluted the Sudanese people's volunteers in the national battle against Iranian aggression, thus expressing the unity of the Arab struggle and the common national destiny.

The two delegations called on the warring parties in Lebanon to end the fighting. They affirmed their support for Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and condemned all external interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

The two delegations welcomed all steps that strengthen relations between Iraq and Sudan and that underline their definite desire to develop ties and relations between the two parties in all fields.

Peres Accepts Invitation to Tripartite Meeting

TA0909103488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today accepted the invitation extended by his counterpart George Shultz to participate in a tripartite meeting with the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in a fortnight in New York.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in his reply the foreign minister notes that the meeting will help assess the impact of Israeli and worldwide events on the peace process and ensure that the next administration, both in Washington and Israel, will have a genuine option to resume that process.

Shamir: No Special Significance

TA0809120088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir suggests that no special significance or exaggerated importance should be attached to the tripartite Reagan-Peres-al-Majid meeting scheduled to take place in New York at the end of September. In a special interview for Rosh Hashana [Jewish New Year], Mr Shamir says that the fact that it is the eve of the Israeli and U.S. elections should be taken into consideration on the meeting's chances.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We all know that one meeting cannot instigate any far-reaching changes, the more so since it will take place on the eve of both the American and Israeli elections. I do not think such a meeting can be accorded special significance in the peace-making process.

[Grossman] Do you believe, as does Minister David Levi, that Minister Peres arranged this meeting for himself in anticipation of the Israeli elections, and that the U.S. Administration is in fact assisting one side in the elections?

[Shamir] This is not a question of what I believe, but rather of facts. I am not familiar with the facts, but I have said that on the eve of elections, the general sensitivity over this aspect should be taken into consideration and that the whole matter should be treated accordingly.

[Grossman] Sir, do you recommend that the foreign minister abstain from attending the meeting in view of the fact that it is the pre-election period in both the United States and Israel?

[Shamir] I do not wish to make any recommendations via the radio to the foreign minister.

[Grossman] Will you convey your protest to the administration or President Reagan over the fact that he may not have paid attention to the meeting's timing?

[Shamir] I have other ways to express my opinion to the U.S. authorities.

[Grossman] Will you do it, Sir?

[Shamir] I assume this issue, too, will find an outlet in the process of the constant dialogue.

[Ben-'Ami] As former foreign minister, you know very well that the UN General Assembly is the very spot where such meetings take place.

[Shamir] Absolutely, absolutely. There are many conversations and meetings. What is perhaps exceptional is the President's intervention such a short time before the end of his term. I would not attach too much importance to the whole matter, however.

[Grossman] Perhaps this last-minute meeting with the U.S. President will produce some beneficial results for Israel? Perhaps that peace we are all striving for will be promoted somehow.

[Shamir, sighing] You might say that about any remark or incidental meeting; namely, that it promotes the process. We all know, however, that such miracles do not happen in our world. We must therefore take the circumstances into consideration, and I would suggest that we all abstain from attaching any special or exaggerated importance to the meeting that will take place on the fringes of the United Nations. [end recording]

Message Viewed as 'Politicized'

TA0809151188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 88 p 2

[Editorial: "There is a Precedent"]

[Text] President Reagan's invitation to Shim'on Peres to take part in a meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state under the President's chairmanship is a politicized rather than a political move.

Despite his advanced age, Reagan obviously knows that 29 September falls 1 month before the Israeli elections and that such a move constitutes overt U.S. interference. This seems to be the U.S. Administration's intention. The message it is trying to convey to the Israeli people and leaders is: The United States will not and does not intend to sit idly by in light of what is happening in the Middle East.

One of the missions of the next U.S. President—whether he be Bush or Dukakis—will be to settle the Middle East conflict. In a world that is marching toward peace agreements and the resolution of regional conflicts, people have grown weary of the prolonged intifada [uprising].

The argument that erupted over Reagan's invitation is natural and legitimate, but one should not forget that a precedent exists. On the eve of the elections in 1981, Begin invited Al-Sadat to a summit meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh. This time the initiative came from the other side—and the Likud is hurting.

Few Results Expected

TA0809151888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Minisummit"]

[Text] Who is supposed to get the most enjoyment from the minisummit scheduled for New York: the initiator, outgoing President Reagan, whose Republican Party, no less than its rival Democratic Party, wants to secure the powerful American Jewish vote; or Shim'on Peres, foreign minister and Israeli Labor Party chairman, who obviously could not reject the presidential invitation?

When a minisummit in which Reagan, Peres, and 'Abd al-Majid take part is set so close to elections there and here, one cannot but smell an electoral odor coming from it. And, in this respect, it does not matter whether the initiative came from Washington or came about as a result of a signal from Jerusalem.

The relevant question is: What can result from it, seeing that the President is already packing his suitcases and the Israeli foreign minister is not empowered to conclude any matters, be it an international conference or more openness toward the Palestinians?

To our regret, the answer does not leave any room for high expectations. This will probably be a very well documented and photographed media event, but nothing more than that.

Soviet Delegation Extends Working Visit

TA0809054888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Israel has decided to extend the visas of the Soviet consular delegation. The Soviet mission has been in Israel since last July. More details from Jack Katzenell.

[Begin Katzenell recording] Originally, the Soviet delegation came for 3 months with the purpose of checking Soviet property in Israel and renewing the passports of Soviet citizens here, mostly Russian women married to Israeli Arabs who have studied in the Soviet Union. However, the Soviet diplomats' arrival was perceived in Jerusalem as a major diplomatic breakthrough and a step on the slow process of reviving full diplomatic relations between the two countries. Israel has therefore renewed the visas of the Soviet delegation several times and hopes that its presence here will become permanent.

The head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, Meron Gordon, who arrived home this week for a brief visit, will today brief Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres on the work of his team. So far, they have been checking out the old Israeli Embassy building in Moscow and have had a warm reception from Moscow Jews, but have not yet had important political meetings with Soviet officials nor have they assumed responsibility for dealing with Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate. This is still done by the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, where the Israel mission is currently housed. [end recording]

Shamir Views Qalqilyah Operation, Peres Trip

TA0809214588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated tonight that the IDF operation in Qalqilyah will reduce riots and disturbances in the city and other towns in Judaea and Samaria. Shamir added that the Arabs in the territories will now realize that violence will only net them unnecessary suffering. Replying to a question by our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, during a tour of Zefat this evening, Shamir emphasized that the military steps in Qalqilyah do not represent a new policy in the territories. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 8 September reports that during his tour of Zefat, Shamir added that "he has nothing against Shim'on Peres' trip to the United States, but he hopes that while there he does not commit himself to anything on behalf of the government, due to the nearness of the elections. Referring to his upcoming trip to Hungary, Mr Shamir said this is a clear sign of the thaw in relations with the Eastern Bloc countries."]

Rabin Says 'Initiated Activities' To Continue

TA0909071388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] In the wake of last night's security forces' operation in the village of Malik, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning said that the IDF will continue its initiated activities in Judaea and Samaria towns. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi spoke with the defense minister.

[Begin recording] [Ashkenazi] Good morning, Defense Minister. The IDF conducted an initiated operation in the village of Malik last night: more arrests, a curfew, searches. A similar operation has been under way in Qalqilyah since the beginning of the week. Is this a new stage in the IDF's activity in the territories? Does it, perhaps, signify a transition to a policy of taking the initiative?

[Rabin] We have always been guided by the intention to take the initiative. The primary goal of the activity in the territories is to put an end to the violence and to the

infrastructure encouraging and inciting this violence. I am referring to the local popular committees. Initiated operations were launched in the past and are being conducted at present. Our constant goal is to take the initiative in our hands, and to do this we must obtain appropriate intelligence data. It is essential to have information on the more active elements and figures in each village. Once such information has been accumulated, we launch an operation such as the recent one in Qalqilyah, whose scope was the largest so far. The IDF often varies the mode of its activities, but I cannot outline the nature of the diversifications because we do not wish to disclose our methods. The methods themselves are directed against violence. Past reports of clashes in this or that Arab town or village were usually the result of an activity initiated by us, rather than by the other side.

[Ashkenazi] Would you say the Qalqilyah operation is a success? Have the goals been achieved?

[Rabin] Most of the goals have been achieved. The operation is still going on, and the curfew in Qalqilyah is in force and will remain so for the next few days to enable us to apprehend all those we need to capture.

[Ashkenazi] Thank you. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Violent Riot in Janin Camp

TA0809122688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Sep 88 p A 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen, Rahamim Ya'aqov, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An IDF force which entered the village of Jaba' last night in order to remove Palestinian flags was confronted by a mob. A 27-year-old man was shot and wounded. There were also violent demonstrations in the Janin refugee camp.

Arab sources reported that three youngsters were wounded in clashes in the Nabulus casbah. There were also violent demonstrations in the village of Qubur al-Dawa'irah. Sources in the village said three young people were wounded, one seriously. There also were demonstrations in Ramallah and Al-'Ayzariyah, where tires were burned and Palestinian flags hoisted. [passage omitted]

Infant Asphyxiated in Riot

TA0809183988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Excerpt] The violence began early this morning. An army force entered the village of Silat al-Harithiyah near Janin. The force tried to carry out an arrest of suspected demonstrators when it encountered a crowd of masked men wielding knives, clubs, and stones. Within minutes the melee began. The Arabs attacked the soldiers, and the army responded with live fire. One of the attackers was killed, another was injured and taken to 'Afula Hospital. The army says it is investigating the incident.

At 1100 am another clash, this time in the village of Si'ir near Hebron. Arab sources say soldiers fired tear gas in and around the homes of the village. A 2-week-old boy, Nihad Jaradat, went into convulsions. Arab sources said he died on the way to the hospital. They say his death was due to tear gas inhalation. The Army spokesman's office says it is checking the report. [passage omitted]

7 Wounded in Gaza Camps

TA0809214388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Over the last 24 hours, seven people have been wounded by shots fired by soldiers who were dispersing violent demonstrations in Gaza Strip refugee camps. Four were wounded in Rafah, including a 9-year-old girl and a rioter who sustained serious wounds. The incident took place last night, but the security forces have released the information only now. Three other people were wounded today in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

IDF Operation in Ramallah Area

TA0909054088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] This morning, the IDF is conducting an operation in the Ramallah District village of Malik. The army is making arrests according to lists previously compiled by intelligence bodies and is also pursuing some suspects who fled the village.

Earlier this morning, roadblocks were erected and PLO flags were flown at the entrance to the village. In addition, Israeli cars were stoned, and Tziyon Mantzur, a settler from Netafim, was wounded in the face. He received medical treatment.

The prime minister has said that the initiated operations will precipitate the end of the riots. He stressed that mass arrests are not a new policy, but rather a new stage in the activities aimed at safeguarding traffic axes in the territories. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Mr Shamir made these remarks in Zefat, where he was accorded honorary citizenship.

2 Wounded in Nabulus

TA0909054788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Two Arabs were injured by army fire last night in Nabulus. Military sources told reporter Steve Rodan that one of the injured had thrown a firebomb at an Army patrol. [passage omitted]

West Bank Resident Wounded

TA0909072688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] A resident of Abu Dis was wounded last night as security forces were dispersing riots in the village. He was hit by a rubber bullet and was treated locally.

This morning the security forces imposed curfews on the Al-Burayj and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps and on the Rafah neighborhood of Shabura. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that curfews are in force in the Al-Shati' and Tulkarm refugee camps and in the townships of Dhannabah, 'Azzun, Husan, and Qalqilyah.

A general strike is under way in the territories this morning, in accordance with the call by the Islamic Resistance Movement.

'Popular Committees' Uncovered

TA0909113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a widespread organizational structure created by local popular committees in Gaza. About 200 suspects have been arrested so far, among them the alleged head of the committees throughout the Gaza Strip. Many of those arrested were released from prison in the exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril.

Three members of one of the popular committees in Jabalyah are suspected of killing Rahel Weiss at Moshav Shafir about a month ago.

Security officials say members of the committees were responsible for 45 attacks against the Israel Army and 7 against those seen as collaborators with Israel. They also distributed leaflets to the local population. The investigation continues.

17 Arrested in Malik Village

TA0909114888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] A curfew on the village of Malik, northeast of Ramallah, has been lifted with the end of an Army search operation in the village. Curfews remain in force, however, at nine other locations in the territories. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin Alan ben-'Ami recording] The operation in Malik this morning was the second time this week that the Army has initiated a comprehensive search for people who have taken an active part in Palestinian demonstrations in violence. The town of Qalqilyah was the first target, and more than 120 people were arrested there earlier this week for incitement to violence, or for having thrown stones and petrol bombs on various occasions. Qalqilyah is still under curfew.

The operation in Malik this morning was on a smaller scale and ended a short while ago. Soldiers moved into the village at first light, with bulldozers being used to clear the entry roads of stones that had been put there by villagers to block the way. The curfew was imposed and villages stayed indoors as the soldiers moved from house to house, seeking in particular people named on lists which the soldiers carried with them.

As with the search operation in Qalqilyah, the Army operation this morning had been carefully prepared, including intelligence work behind the list of names on the arrest sheets. Altogether 17 people were detained, some of them members of the local committee which has been directing Palestinian activities. There was no trouble between the soldiers and any of the residents, and the operation ended a short while ago without incident. The curfew is now been lifted from Malik. [end recording]

Lack of Due Process in Territories Protested

TA0609194688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A group of Israeli lawyers demonstrated this evening outside the Bar Association in Jerusalem in protest over the Israeli policy in the territories. The attorneys said the Bar Association has been silent, although the rule of law is not being observed. Earlier, the Bar published a resolution calling on the defense establishment to uphold the law in dealing with Arab detainees. At the demonstration was reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Berger] About 30 lawyers demonstrated, carrying signs saying "An enlightened nation does not destroy houses," "Detention without due process is injustice," and "We are ashamed of the Bar Association's silence." Attorney Shlomo Kohen:

[Kohen] There is a group of us—we are all attorneys who have come to the conclusion that we can no longer condone two basic problems. One is the measures of punishment: demolitions, deportations, and administrative detentions. The other basic complaint we have is that whatever measures of punishment are being performed, they are being performed without due process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Uprising Causes Economic Slowdown in Territories

TA0709112088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Sep 88 p 34

[Text] According to data relayed by the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria to the economic ministries in Jerusalem, exports to the territories have dropped by $613 million since the beginning of the uprising. At the same time, a surplus of $176 million has been observed in the balance of goods and services between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The drop in exports has so far amounted to $613 million, while imports from the territories to Israel—which include goods, work services, and imports from overseas—has totaled $789 million.

Israeli Television reported in its Arabic-language program that according to data compiled by the Civil Administration, since the beginning of the uprising the GNP in the territories has dropped 29 percent, unemployment has increased 23 percent, and per capita income has dropped 28 percent due to laborers' absence from work in Israel and in the territories, the closure of factories, and the decline of tourism.

West Bank Towns Near 'Financial Collapse'

TA0709094788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Municipalities in the West Bank are on the verge of financial collapse. This month, for the first time, Bethlehem municipality has not paid the salaries of its workers.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says the municipal coffers are empty and he does not know where the money will come from. He believes that if the situation does not change dramatically within the next 2 weeks, there will be a general collapse of all municipal services in the West Bank. According to Frayj, he has brought up the issue with Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration, who told him that salvation would not come from Israel due to budgetary constraints.

Frayj blames Israel for the deterioration in the situation, saying that the heavy tax burden imposed by the Civil Administration leaves residents with no money to pay municipal taxes.

Average Wages Go Up, Unemployment Unchanged

TA0609094988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Sep 88 p 9

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] The average wage in the economy, before tax, now stands at NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1,850 (almost $1,200), according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Over the first six months of the year, the average wage jumped 7.4 percent in real terms compared with the same period last year.

After a drop in wages in the first quarter of 1988, the average wage rose 4.3 percent in real terms over the second quarter. The bureau said yesterday the differences between the quarters stemmed mainly from seasonal factors.

For the first half of the year the average wage rose around 10 percent for workers in financial and business services, as well as for public sector employees. In personal services, wages rose around 9 percent; in construction and trade 7.5 percent; agriculture around 6.6 percent; industry 5.2 percent; and transport 4.2 percent.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit meanwhile, showed no great change last month compared with July. According to the National Insurance Institute, around 25,000 claims were registered, a 2.5 percent rise. Of these, around 5,500 (a drop of 4.5 percent) were first time claims.

But in comparison with August last year, the number of claimants has jumped nearly 45 percent. For the first five months of this year compared with the same period last year, there has been a 28 percent rise in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit.

Agreement on Exports From Territories Honored

TA0709093888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Sep 88 p 10

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin yesterday informed the European Community's ambassador to Israel, Gwynn Morgan, that Israel intended to stand by its commitment to permit the direct export of agricultural produce from the territories, despite reports to the contrary.

The ambassador said he was satisfied that recent misunderstandings over the issue had been cleared up.

Last month, Nehamkin had warned he would prevent any Palestinians perceived as belonging to "hostile groups" from marketing agricultural produce, be it to Israel, Jordan or the EC. His ministry said it was concerned that groups identified with the PLO might try to take advantage of Jordan's disengagement from the territories to take control of those organizations that have been authorized to take part in marketing.

Claude Cheysson, the EC commissioner in charge of Mediterranean affairs, had responded that any attempt by Israel to block Palestinian exports to Western Europe would be regarded as a severe violation of existing accords.

Nehamkin's initiative to meet with the EC ambassador yesterday was apparently prompted by fears that his statements had been misinterpreted and could again hurt the country's chances of having its agricultural protocols with the EC ratified.

Israeli Jets Fly Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps
NC0909095988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebabon in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon and its camps shortly after 0900 today, drawing antiaircraft fire. In another development, fighting is currently raging between South Lebanese Army personnel and gunmen of extreme leftist organizations along the Lib'a-Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the clashes.

Information Minister on Newspaper Reorganization
PM0909081188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Sep 88 p 11

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by Nura Fakhuri; date, place, not given]

[Excerpts] [Fakhuri] Some people link the decision to dissolve the Jordanian papers' boards of directors to the line adopted by some Jordanian papers after links between Jordan and the West Bank were severed. Is there any link between the two measures?

[Al-Khasawinah] No link at all. Jordanian papers are similar to any other papers in the Arab world or the Third World. When a newspaper is published, its leadership adopts part of the general inclination of the state. Regarding those involved in the three papers, AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR in particular, the state granted them a privilege, namely 30 percent private ownership and 70 percent public funding. Historically, the founders of these papers are regarded as part of the state, which looked after them and still does. The severance of links with the [West] Bank has nothing to do with this in the slightest. This was an ordinary measure.

[Fakhuri] Do you not believe that a decision of this kind is a backward step in the history of the Jordanian press, which has just begun to assert itself in professional information work?

[Al-Khasawinah] Actually the opposite is true: We consider it a step forward.

[Fakhuri] How?

[Al-Khasawinah] It is a step forward because it will secure two main conditions: First, a place for editors on the board of directors, because, as is known, in this contemporary world it is the editors who actually publish the paper. As for the second condition, it will ensure that it is not the profit motive which rules the paper, which was the case in the past. The papers achieved good standards, but the profit motive outweighed the good standards achieved. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] Are we to understand from your statements that some complaints had been made about previous managements?

[Al-Khasawinah] Matters have built up for years, not only during the era of the present government. Several pages used to be allocated for condolences to make a quick profit rather than develop public taste. This is legitimate because the paper relies on advertisements. But these advertisements became a joke among Jordanian readers. Our readers used to find the paper full of condolences and acknowledgements. That situation was corrected 2 years ago. The profit motive in a country like Jordan is not the prime objective of the press. We want to develop the mentality of the Jordanian reader. [passage omitted]

Satellite Station Begins Experimental Reception
JN0409073588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra, J.T.)—A ground satellite station built within the Jordan Radio and Television compound in Amman Saturday began experimental reception through the European Communications Satellite (ECS), according to an official announcement.

The announcement said that the station installed by local technicians working for the Jordan Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (JRTC) has a dish of nine metres and provides three channels and an additional reserve channel to help receive various world programmes for Jordan Television. The new station will receive and relay the Olympic Games which will open in the South Korean capital Seoul, a television official said.

Work on the station and the installation of various equipment and the dish took two months to complete, and the project was carried out in implementation of an agreement between the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and (JRTC).

The new station will replace services of those provided to Jordan Television so far through the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC)'s Baqaa satellite stations which are connected with two satellites operating over the Indian and Atlantic oceans. The TCC, the official said, took part in a feasibility study for the construction of the new station which cost nearly JD 180,000 provided through the Ministry of Planning from a protocol signed by France and Jordan.

The new station will recieve four feeds of news exchanges on a daily basis from the EBU in addition to extraordinary feeds which will greatly boost Jordanian television programmes. He said that the station will soon be providing Jordan Television with sports and other significant events like the Eurovision song contest. But he added that Jordan Television will continue to receive feeds from Arabsat.

Deputy Sarhal's Car Reportedly 'Intercepted'

NC0809165688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Political and parliamentary quarters have followed up the development of the interception of Deputy Farid Sarhal at the Al-Damur Bridge while he was leaving for Jazzin this afternoon, accompanied by his wife and French female journalist (Annie Laurant).

According to reports, an unknown automobile intercepted the automobile of Deputy Sarhal and forced him to change course. According to the same reports, Deputy Sarhal and his wife were taken to the Bristol Hotel [in West Beirut] while the driver of his automobile, in which the French journalist was riding, continued the journey to Jazzin.

According to other reports, Deputy Sarhal telephoned his residence in Badaru [in East Beirut] 2 hours after he left for Jazzin. He informed those who were inside the residence that he was in the Bristol Hotel where a meeting was underway. He also told them that he was prevented from continuing his journey to Jazzin because of the urgency of the meeting at the Bristol.

Francois Abu Sa'b, press attache at the French Embassy, told Voice of Lebanon that he spoke on the telephone to journalist (Annie Laurant) and that she is in good shape in Jazzin.

According to some reports, Deputy Sarhal met at the Bristol with Robert Franjiyah.

Deputy Sarhal Denies Reports

NC0809165888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Deputy Farid Sarhal has denied reports distributed by the Phalangist media in the eastern area that he had been subjected to a kidnapping attempt. He disclosed that he is currently in West Beirut and that he met with Robert Franjiyah today. Sarhal added that he also had received a telephone call from Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

VOL on Syria Plan To 'Lure' Deputies to W. Beirut

NC0809200888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Some security quarters have received information about a plan to lure most of the deputies to West Beirut to secure a quorum for a parliamentary session to elect a new president.

Some sources have told Voice of Lebanon that, at the request of the Syrians, Muhsin Dallul [Lebanese Druze personality] has met with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and has asked him to set a date for a parliamentary session on 12 or 13 September at the Chamber of Deputies Building in Al-Najmah Square [in West Beirut]. The sources added that luring the deputies to West Beirut and then to Al-Najmah Square would prevent them from escaping to East Beirut, which would be more feasible if the parliamentary session were to be held in Mansur Palace near the museum [on the Green Line].

Under the plan, deputies living in East Beirut will be sent invitations to attend dinners in West Beirut. Additionally, Minister Nabih Birri will send invitations to all Shi'ite deputies to attend a dinner at which they may adopt a unified Shi'ite stand. The aim of this invitation is to secure a meeting between the Shi'ite deputies and Syrian officials.

The sources say that Syria suddenly set 11 September as the date to meet with deputies living in East Beirut, who have asked for a date to visit Damascus for a long time. Thus, it transpires that the Syrian plan aims to assemble the largest number of deputies over the weekend and move them to the parliament building in Al-Najmah Square.

According to the same sources, certain media arrangements have been made, including the Syrians' decision to provide television Channel 7 with a special van to transmit the proceedings of the parliamentary session live from Channel 7, which is linked to channel 11.

The sources conclude: The interception of Deputy Farid Sarhal while he was traveling to Jazzin falls within the framework of this plan. If he was intercepted today when he had arrived in Jazzin, it would have been difficult to bring him to the planned session.

These sources expect Deputy Sarhal to remain under house arrest in the Bristol Hotel until the plan is implemented.

Nasirist Leader Speaks on Sidon, Elections

JN0809135388 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 6 Sep 88 pp 1, 18

[Interview with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon, by Bassam al-Qassas in Sidon; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qassas] What is your organization's relationship with other Lebanese parties?

[Sa'd] The relationship between the Nasirite Popular Organization and the other progressive nationalist forces in the Lebanese arena depends on how committed these organizations are to our principles—foremost, confrontation of the Zionist enemy by backing or joining the Lebanese national resistance. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qassas] It is being said that a battle is expected in Sidon between the Syrians and Palestinians. What is your opinion?

[Sa'd] The occasional reports about the situation in Sidon and the possibility of clashes are no more than an attempt to confuse and undermine the situation in this city, which is in the vanguard of the confrontation of partition and division. The talk about the possibility of intra-Lebanese, Palestinian-Lebanese, intra-Palestinian, or Palestinian-Syrian clashes is no more than an attempt by the enemies and their trumpets to spread rumors and cause panic. It is a figment of their imagination. The situation in the region is very normal. There is complete understanding among the various sides and groups in the calm security atmosphere guaranteed by the security police of the Nasirite Popular Organization. Still, we are alert and ready for any attempt by the enemy to strike at us from within and cause a split in our ranks. We tell those who try to fish in troubled waters that we will not be dragged into sideshows or allow anyone to involve this city in a sideshow that will only benefit the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qassas] What is your assessment of the Syrian role in Lebanon?

[Sa'd] You know very well that Lebanon maintains a historical relationship with sister Syria, a relationship dictated by geography, history, and a common confrontation of the Zionist enemy's plots against all countries of the Arab nation. However, this does not mean that we and sister Syria are one framework, one party, or one state, although we and the Syrian people and all Arab peoples consider ourselves as one people in different countries. This explains the differences that take place from time to time on certain issues. But these differences are never on strategy, only tactics. The removal of all differences lies in the intensification of our common struggle. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qassas] The coming presidential elections are considered a major political milestone. Do you believe a president acceptable to all Lebanon will be elected before 23 September, or do you expect a new government by the current president, or what?

[Sa'd] I have often said, and I repeat today, that we are facing an isolationist Israeli-U.S. alliance, which has been trying for some time to impose its conditions and diktat on this homeland. Everyone is playing the role assigned to him. Richard Murphy's tour, the Zionist escalation in the south, and the Phalangists' general mobilization and obstuction of the first round of the presidential election only confirm the plan to either produce a new president who will replay the experience of the 1982 presidency or extend the term of the current president. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qassas] It is understood that the United States and other parties are playing a significant role in the elections. How do you view this matter?

[Sa'd] It has been the destiny of this homeland to be an arena for all world and regional power struggles and the target of the Zionist enemy's ambitions. This homeland has a long history of U.S. interference in its affairs. It began with the establishment of the Zionist entity and has continued to this day. We are subject to the Zionist interests. A glance back at the State Department and White House statements on Lebanon and the south will confirm what we are saying. The U.S. Administration's interest in Lebanon and the elections is due to the fact that this country is adjacent to occupied Palestine. This came in a statement by a State Department official, who said verbatim: We are interested in the elections because we are concerned about secure boundaries for Israel and security arrangements. This is the U.S. role, and I will not comment any further. [passage omitted]

Nationalist Parties Intends To Unify Militias

NC0909094988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Sep (MENA)—An informed source of one of the parties in Beirut has stated that the nationalist parties in Lebanon have decided to unite all the military militia under the flag of a national army which they intend to set up in the areas under their control.

The Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD reports today that the decision to form a unified command of these militias will be announced next week. The paper points out that representatives of these parties decided at a meeting yesterday to form political, information, security, economic, and social committees to administer the areas under their control and confront any possible constitutional developments in Lebanon. Names of members of these committees will be announced in the next 2 days.

Syrians, Hizballah Clash Near Fadlallah Residence

NC0809141688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] A state of extreme tension is prevailing in the Harat Hurayk area in Beirut's southern suburb following this afternoon's armed clash between a group of Hizballah gunmen, who were guarding the home of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Syrian soldiers, who were manning a checkpoint opposite the house.

The incident began when two Hizballah members riding in a brown Mercedes drove near the checkpoint. The soldiers manning the checkpoint tried to stop the car. An argument ensued and soon escalated into a clash in which machineguns were used.

According to security reports, armed men have appeared in the area, especially near the Al-Sabaq gasoline station.

Further on Clashes

NC0809144788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] There was an exchange of gunfire between Hizballah gunmen guarding the residence of Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizballah, and Syrian soldiers manning a checkpoint opposite the house in Harat Hurayk at 1300 today. The incident began when two Hizballah members riding in a brown Mercedes drove near the checkpoint. The soldiers manning the checkpoint tried to stop the car. An argument ensued and soon a Hizballah group stationed in front of Fadlallah's house intervened. The two persons in the car fled away after the Syrians and the Hizballah group clashed.

Ba'th 'Iraq Command' Comments on 'Massacres'
JN0809142088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Commenting on the bloody massacres committed by the fascist Iraqi regime, a responsible information spokesman at the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party said the following: It is not strange or extraordinary for the policy of repression and annihilation of the fascist Iraqi regime against the sons of our people to escalate with extreme savagery and ugliness. Surprised by Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 stipulating a halt to the war after it had arranged for its continuous escalation for the past 8 years, and after being forced to halt combat, this regime is trying to implement schemes to turn our Iraqi people and Army away from their national tasks and force them into deliberate operations that dismember Iraq and divide its people into trenches of disunion and hatred full of spilled blood. This is especially the case since the regime has been terrified by our Iraqi people's spontaneous celebrations of the cessation of combat. These celebrations have displayed with absolute clarity the rejection of Saddam's war. Our people have taken to the streets celebrating peace, not the false victory claimed by the regime. They celebrated the end of catastrophe, not the maker of the catastrophe—the war maker who still insists on naming the war after him.

The Iraqi regime made direct negotiations with their neighbor Iran a pretext before agreeing to end combat. This led it into a trap and every Iraqi now questions the heavy price Iraq has paid over the bitter years of war. The regime could have demanded negotiations to resolve the border problems before starting the criminal war. This and other questions have become much more painful and embarrassing to the regime than questions of war. These questions have also begun to herald a plan for comprehensive punishment, whose time has come. Therefore, the fascist regime thinks that by indulging further in the policy of comprehensive killing, deportation, and annihilation to the extent of using chemical weapons, it can liquidate nationalist opposition in Iraq and postpone punishment. With this policy, the regime persists in declaring and publicizing terrorism, not hesitating to commit the ugliest crimes, and it is not expected to abstain from any abominable act after that policy has become an entrenched basis for the methods of its action and practices.

The horrendous massacres of our people in northern Iraq by the fascist regime are an expression of that barbaric policy, unknown to mankind outside the ages of darkness and deterioration. These massacres are a continuation of the regime's course of destroying the people and Army of Iraq. They are a murder of the entire Iraqi people and a true threat to their safety and unity. If the regime accomplishes the current criminal policy in the northern area of the homeland, it will exploit the circumstances of suffering and siege to appoint false figures to speak on behalf of clean nationalist figures and to join the discarded band flattering the regime and praising its crimes.

The regime's recent announcement on amnesty and forgiveness and other repeated nonsense are a new trap for the weak-willed to affect the true nationalist stand of all honorable ones in our proud Iraq. What a paradox for the condemned regime to forgive its victims—the killer to forgive the killed! Killing is a policy of failure, not strength. The barbaric massacres are a defeat for the regime, not a victory or demonstration of might.

The days of genuine struggle have come. Our Iraqi people and their nationalist struggling forces must triumph over the tyrants and arrogants, whose rule has become a direct threat to the safety of the homeland and its territorial integrity. Statements of denunciation and condemnation cannot alone confront this danger or halt the regime's crimes. Our people expect all their nationalist forces to rise to a true, unified, and joint action in confronting the regime and all the rifles of the revolutionaries to be unified within a comprehensive plan to bring closer the hour of punishment and hour of salvation. We will continue to be faithful to our people and the masses of our nation to rescue Iraq from the grave dangers posed to it.

Lebanon's Birri Discusses Elections With Khaddam
NC0709173288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] A working meeting was held in Damascus at 1830 today and was attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; PSP leader Walid Junblatt; Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon; and Dawud Baz, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. Discussion during the meeting centered on recent domestic developments, particularly with regard to the presidential elections and the isolationist onslaught backed by the United States, the Zionist entity, and reactionary Arab forces.

Afghanistan

Rebels Shoot Down Transport, 3 Generals Killed

BK0809163888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance shot down an Afghan military plane in northern Afghanistan Thursday, killing three generals, Radio Kabul said in a report monitored here.

The Soviet-made Antonov-32 was shot down in the Konduz area, the radio said.

Najibullah Congratulates Cosmonauts

LD0809191288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The following message of congratulations has been sent to the Afghan and Soviet cosmonauts by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the successful completion of the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight:

Esteemed Comrades Mohmand and Lyakhov. I congratulate you on fulfilling the work program in space and on your successful return. The historic flight of the Afghan and Soviet cosmonauts, which brought historical Afghanistan closer to the heights of scientific-technical progress has ended. This marks a special day in the history of traditional friendship and cooperation. The sound of peace that echoed from space reached millions of our compatriots.

In accordance with a decision by the Republic state of Afghanistan the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan has been awarded to Comrades Mohmand and Lyakhov. The medal of the Sun of Freedom has been awarded to Comrades Dauran, Polyakov, Titov, Manarov, Berezovoy, and Arzamanov.

I congratulate you on receiving the highest medals of the Republic of Afghanistan. I wish prosperity and health to all participants in the flight and success in future research. We are waiting impatiently for you in the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan and General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee

Najibullah Decorates Air Force Personnel

LD0509083088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, September 4, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan awarded orders and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan to a number of personnel of the Afghan Air Forces in a function held here today.

During the function, President Najibullah talked about the honourable deeds of the Afghan Air Force for maintenance of peace and tranquility in the country.

Brigadier General Qeyamuddin, deputy commander of the airforces, Colonel Zalmay, hero of the Republic of Afghanistan and Captain 'Abdul Rauf on behalf of his colleagues promised to defend bravely the independence, national dignity and achievements of national reconciliation.

A number of high-ranking officers of the Republic of Afghanistan also participated at the function.

Pakistani Charge Summoned Over Air Intrusions

LD0809170988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1330 on 8 September and the following points were made to him by the deputy head of the First Political Department:

According to information from the security forces of the Afghan Armed Forces, two F-16 aircraft of the Pakistani Air Force at a speed of 700 km per hour entered the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan in the Asmar area, Konarha Province, at 1700 7 September, 1988 and after a reconnaisance flight, flew back to the territory of Pakistan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests this blatant violation by the Pakistani Air Force and regards it as a clear violation of the Geneva accords. Denouncing this violation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asks the Republic of Pakistan to refrain from repeating such intrusions which only aggravate the situation, and to consider its obligations within the spirit of Geneva accords. Otherwise, responsibility for the consequences of such violations and interference will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Foreign Ministry Submits Protests to UN Mission

75th Protest Note

LD0609083388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, September 5, OANA-BAKHTAR—The 75th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on three instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the second article, document first of Geneva agreements, was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The notice requested the mission to investigate the violations listed and inform the parties concerned as well as the representative of the UN secretary general of the results of their findings.

76th Protest Note

LD0809130488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the UNGOMAP reported today that the 76th note of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Pakistan's blatant and open violations of the provisions of Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

The note reports eight violations by Pakistan of provisions in Paragraph 2, Document No 1 of the Geneva accords. The mission has been asked to investigate Pakistan's violations and forward the results to the UN secretary general and the Republic of Afghanistan.

77th, 78th Protest Notes

LD0809191688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Liaison Office reports that today, 8 September, the 77th note from the Republic of Afghanistan was delivered to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul. The note concerns three instances of Pakistan's blatant violation of the Geneva accords provisions.

The note points out Pakistan's baseless accusation that Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace. It was even claimed that one out of five aircraft was shot down. The note says such accusations come as part of hostile propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly now when the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference is being convened in Nicosia.

The note adds that if this claim is true, when why does Pakistan not show the remains of the downed plane to UNGOMAP. The note also asks UNGOMAP mission to investigate and convey the results to the UN secretary general's envoy and the Afghan side.

Also, the 78th Afghan note was delivered to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul this evening.

This note mentions one blatant violation by Pakistan concerning Article 2, Document No 1 of the Geneva accords. The note asks the mission to investigate this Pakistani violation and to convey the results to Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's envoy.

IZVESTIA Interviews Prime Minister

LD0309195788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 88

[Text] Achieving national reconciliation is the main objective of the new government which I head. We are determined to do everything to achieve this aim, said Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq in an interview with an IZVESTIYA correspondent. The interview was published in the today's issue.

Our government is in part a coalition government. Eighteen ministers in the Cabinet, myself included, are nonparty people. We wish to expand this coalition by inviting representatives of the armed opposition to hold talks and to cooperate. We are trying to create a basis for power leading to an end to the war, Hasan Sharq said.

The opposition is divided, the prime minister went on. It is marked by deep contradictions. If it were not for outside interference, it would be much easier for us to reach agreement with representatives of the opposition operating inside Afghanistan. The leaders of the Peshawar alliance lead a very tranquil life. Their families reside in Western countries and they are unconcerned about the hardships of their people. They believe that the war will lead to the regime's fall. Meanwhile, we believe that no one will accomplish anthing by fighting.

On Soviet assistance to Afghanistan, the prime minister emphasized that the Soviet Union's support for the war-ravaged state—direct ties, the granting of credits, the training of specialists—is invaluable.

Measures are being taken to strengthen the private sector in the country. Assistance to enterpreneurs is spelled out in the republic's Constitution. We suggested that they build factories; we lifted restrictions on cooperation with foreign companies. Funds illegally expropriated by the bank from private owners have been returned to them. Moreover, banks have been instructed to give assistance to private traders, Sharq said.

Asked by the correspondent about the prime minister's intention to visit the USSR in September, Sharq answered that this will be the first visit to the Soviet Union over the past 10 years by a head of the Afghan Government who is not a member of a party. Our people expect a lot from the visit. We have always believed that strengthening friendship and cooperation between our two peoples is above the interests of party politics. I hope that my visit will be a success, he said.

Asked about the Soviet-Afghan space flight, the prime minister expressed gratitude to the Soviet people. Our people take pride in the fact that an Afghan was a member of the space mission. At the same time, he said, this event gives new momentum to our struggle for national reconciliation, for an end to the fratricidal war, for the unity of all Afghans.

Touching on the Afghan situation, Hasan Sharq said that Afghans closely follow developments in Pakistan. If a truly democratic government is elected there in the months ahead, this will have a positive impact on relations between our countries. We sincerely hope this situation will develop.

India takes a very positive view of the changes that have taken place in our country. The Indian people, just like the Afghan people, are interested in improving relations with Pakistan.

There are signs now that our relations with Iran can improve. We are taking every possible measure so as not to antagonize Iran. We are receiving reports that the Iranians might also want improved relations, the prime minister said.

Wolasi Jirgah Holds Session 4 Sep

LD0509145388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] A session of the Wolasi Jirgah session was convened this morning. Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi chaired the session. A BIA correspondednt reports that first, a report by the administrative delegation of the Wolasi Jirgah on the period between two sessions was presented by the chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah. The participants approved the report.

The Wolasi Jirgah secretary then read out the plans for the second term of the Wolasi Jirgah during 1367 [beginning 20 March 1988]. This was approved unanimously.

The session also heard a report from the Wolasi Jirgah Credential Affairs Commission regarding the approval of the credentials of Mr Muhammad Ashraf, a representative of the nomads. The participants unanimously approved his membership in the Wolasi Jirgah.

The correspondent adds that during the morning session of the Wolasi Jirgah, a letter on forming a joint commission to study the Milli Shura law and a proposal from the Wolasi Jirgah Financial Planning and Budget Commission on resolving a number of internal Wolasi Jirgah problems were read out. It was unanimously decided that the commissions should begin to study and assess comprehensively the above issues and report on their conclusions at the next session.

According to another report, work on the agenda was continued into the afternoon session.

Islamic Party Leader Outlines Policy, Ties

LD0509090888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 4, BAKHTAR—The Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan as an independent political organisation which was established in the conditions of national reconciliation has practically supported the national reconciliation policy initiated by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and desires its realisation, said Satar Serat, chairman of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan in the recent session of the political parties and organisations of Afghanistan.

He added that the multi-party system and coalition government in the country are the only way out of the present complicated situation and will put an end to bloodshed in our homeland.

Satar Serat indicated that while the extremists and warmongers misuse the name of Islam and clean sentiments of the masses, his party endeavours to introduce the real Hanafite way of Islam to the people and will disclose the malicious and devilish deeds and aims of the extremists.

The Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan since its foundation has accomplished many duties included in its program of action, among which a number of Islamic publications have been sent to the refugees in Peshawar and to the elders and the ringleaders of the opposition groups inside the country.

The chairman of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan continued that his party in a short time after its establishment has done preliminary works for creating tribal battalions [as received] in some provinces and contacted with the elders of the tribes in this regard.

At the same time, the party contacted with some armed groups to negotiate on their attraction to the party, he added.

Serat pointed out during this period, his party sent many copies of its platform to the opposition commandants and the negotiation process continues.

"We have in mind to travel to India and establish relations with Islamic organizations of that country. We had talks with the Libyan ambassador in Kabul, who promised to send our publications to Libya and to distribute them among people there", Satar Serat noted.

He noted that the grounds will be paved for the party's more international contacts in the forthcoming international Islamic conference which is due to be held in Kabul at the initiative of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

India

Daily on Official 'Indifference' Towards Burma

BK0309142588 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "India and Burma"]

[Text] Burma stands today at the crossroads. Decades of repressed anger have suddenly welled up and risen in collective rage. The upsurge in March, June and now, in the current phase, has severely jolted Burma's military rulers. Mr Sein Lwin, who replaced Gen Ne Win late last month, did not expect the people to fight back. In fact, he claimed that the Army had the strength to put down the current agitation spearheaded by militant students. He was sadly mistaken. He was forced to resign only 18 days after he was chosen as the new leader of the Burma Socialist Programme Party. The crackdown on protesters ordered by him made things worse for Mr Lwin. Later, the military rulers chose Mr Maung Maung, the

leader without Army background, to replace Mr Lwin. The military's hope that with his appointment as Burma's new president things would ease gradually was again belied. As things stand, neither Mr Ne Win's reported departure to an unknown destination nor any cosmetic change is likely to be accepted by the agitators, unless there is a switch-over to the multi-party system and initiation of other serious reform.

Solutions to the present crisis will take time. As one may recall, in the early 1960s, when Mr U Nu's party came to power, several regional parties emerged on the national scene. In the light of ethnic insurgencies growing in the Shan and Kachin States, Mr U Nu proposed greater regional autonomy. Gen Ne Win, at this state, moved in and captured power in 1962, citing threats to unity as his justification. Thus, under the circumstances, only a semblance of a broad range of parties can emerge. Meanwhile, if things have to settle, efforts should be made to evolve ways and means to facilitate full participation of people—whether Burman, Mon, Shan, Arakanese, Karen, Kachin or others—in the political process. In fact in a country like Burma, federalism must become a cornerstone of new policy.

It is strange and indeed sad that South Block [External Affairs Ministry] finds itself sidelined as it has hardly cared to know about Burma with which, after China, this country has the longest common border. Our indifference to developments in a country which was placed under a British Indian Commissioner in 1885 and which remained a part of British India till 1937, is somewhat strange. It was through Burma, a number of invasions into this country took place in the 19th century and developments in Burma indeed affected this country. Burma is in turmoil now, and India has no forthcoming policy towards her neighbour. We have no idea of what is happening in the neighbouring country and we have to depend on Japan and other Western agencies for keeping ourselves abreast of the recent developments. South Block has paid much attention to other neighbours to the extent, at times, of being obsessed with them. Our indifference towards Burma is indeed intriguing.

Paper Says Army Plays Arbiter Role in Pakistan

BK0509141788 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Aug 88 p 8

[Editorial: "The Emerging Nexus"]

[Text] The new Pakistan Army Chief, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg's statement that the Army would like to keep out of politics is unlikely to relieve the country's democrats of their apprehensions regarding the future shape of things. While Gen. Beg's reassurance that the elections will be held in November as scheduled will be widely welcomed, it would be premature to assume that the Pakistan Army's involvement in politics will soon come to an end. When he says that the Army will transfer power to the victorious in the elections, all that he is doing is to reaffirm the commitment which the late Gen. Zia had made. The Army was clearly given a pivotal role in the political set-up which the latter had envisaged. He had, for instance, strenuously prepared the ground for power-sharing between the Army and the faction of the Muslim League which was prepared to play second fiddle to him. That was the plain meaning, firstly, of the unceremonious dismissal of the former prime minister, Mr Mohammed Khan Junejo and, secondly, of the immediate appointment of three Muslim League leaders not owing allegiance to Mr Junejo, as the care-taker chief ministers of Punjab, NWFP, and Baluchistan. It was at that time that the Muslim League had for all practical purposes broken up into a pro-Zia faction and a pro-Junejo faction. This split has now been formalised.

The far more significant development since the death of Gen. Zia has been the little publicised meeting held by the three chief ministers in the pro-Zia Muslim League—it will now be more appropriate to call it pro-army—with Gen. Beg the other day. It is widely believed that the talks related to ways of strengthening co-ordination between the Army and the Muslim League which has parted company with Mr Junejo. The leading lights of this League are Mr Fida Mohammed Khan, former governor of NWFP, who has been named the party's president, Mr Nawaz Sharif, the chief minister of Punjab, who is its secretary-general, Lt-Gen. (ret) Fazle Haq, the chief minister of NWFP, and Mir Zafrullah Khan Jamali, chief minister of Baluchistan. The most assertive of them appears to be Mr Nawaz Sharif judging by his remarks after taking over as the secretary-general of the pro-army Muslim League.

It is clear that all of them are anything but happy at President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's statements hinting at the possibility of the elections being held on a party basis. This then is bound to be the most contentious issue in the immediate future, with President Khan coming under growing pressure from those who want party-based elections and those who don't. This is a tailor-made situation in which the Army will find it convenient to act as the arbiter. Even if Gen. Beg is sincere in his belief that politics should be left to politicians, as he has said, it will be naive to expect that he will scrupulously avoid playing such a role. The Punjab officer cadre which dominates the military establishment is highly unlikely, at any rate, to permit Gen. Beg the luxury of such an exercise in self-denial.

Exercise Demonstrates Air Force's Capabilities

BK0409080888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] The Indian Air Force is well-equipped to meet any threat to the country's airspace with remarkable swiftness and precision. This was demonstrated at a 20-minute-long simulated interception of enemy aircraft in the southwestern sector. AIR correspondent Inderjit Behl, who was among the team of mediamen to witness

the simulated interception, reports that the officers of the Air Force have been provided with modernized weapon system of the second generation to meet any threat in the skies.

The demonstration began with the command ringing out—Thunderbirds, scramble, scramble. Within seconds, the Thunderbirds were airborne with a noise of a volcanic eruption. From the east, two attacking aircraft came in over the airfield tailing the enemy aircraft and launched a decisive assault on the simulated intruding aircraft. The interceptor aircraft, which performed a mock attack on two enemy aircraft, was a mandatory defensive move after an enemy is sighted. The simulated interception was enacted as part of air defense exercises to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the Indian Air Force which falls on the 8th of next month.

Tamil Nadu Chief of Janata Party Resigns
BK0909104288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the Janata Party, Mr Era Chezhian, has resigned. He conveyed the decision to the Janata Party president, Mr Ajit Singh, and the general secretary, Mr Thampan Thomas in Madras yesterday.

Mr Chezhian told our Madras correspondent that he condemns the unruly behavior of some of the party workers. He also said the party high command should respect the wishes of the majority of the party workers in the state, who are not in favor of the party having any (?touch) with the DMK. Serious differences have been reported in the ranks of the state unit over this issue.

The party president, Mr Ajit Singh, however, told newsmen yesterday that there will be no change in the party's decision to accept the DMK as an ally in the seven-party national front.

Court Rejects Petitions on Indira Gandhi Case
BK0709130988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The Supreme Court has dismissed review petitions filed by Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh against death sentences awarded to them in the Indira Gandhi assassination case. The petitions were rejected by a division bench comprising Justice J.L. Oza, Justice B.C. Ray, and Justice K.J. Shetty. The bench is the same which dismissed the appeals of the accused against the Delhi High Court judgment and confirmed the death sentence.

Iran

UN Commander Says Both Sides Observing Cease-Fire
LD0709154788 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 7, IRNA—The commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), Major General Slavko Jovic, said here in a press conference Tuesday night that presently both Iran and Iraq are cooperating with the UN forces.

He added that there has been problems since the cease-fire was established on Aug. 20, expressing that hopefully they will be removed in future.

In response to an IRNA question of what the UNIIMOG has done for the 700 Iranian combatants captured by Iraq on Aug. 30, he said there exists problems and that efforts are made to resolve them. He pointed out that he did not want to jeopardize the peace talks by publicly commenting on such topics at the present juncture.

As for what has been done so far for the two complaints of Iran on Iraqi violation of cease-fire because the UN Mediator Jan Eliasson has not received these reports, he said these reports are first investigated and once proven are reported to the UN.

Jovic declined to comment on Iraqi allegations of Iran having broken cease-fire, but said the UNIIMOG forces have been carrying out their responsibility in the best possible manner.

He added that the number of the UNIIMOG forces was sufficient and that they are mobile and can have all the border line under their supervision.

On Baghdad regime's attacks against Iraqi Kurds he said that the operations have not been on cease-fire line and the UNIIMOG has had no problem in this respect.

Major General Jovic told reporters that the forces under his command have defined the cease-fire line and are now strengthening their positions.

Cease-Fire Talks Continue at UN HQ in Geneva

Velayati Says Iraq Blocks Talks
LD0809192188 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 8 Sep 88

["Velayati Accuses Iraq of Blocking Talks, Says Iran Ready To Continue Negotiations"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today reiterated that Iran was eager to continue peace talks for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 and accused Iraq of trying to impede the negotiations.

Addressing a 45-minute news conference at the Palace de Nations here, Velayati expressed confidence that under the "strong supervision" of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his personal representative, the Swedish diplomat Jan Eliasson, "we will be able to achieve this objective, that is peace." Velayati said in his news conference attended by scores of foreign journalists that Iraq did not feel content with freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. He said Baghdad was trying to use the peace talks to acquire what he described as "unimpeded passage through the territorial

sea of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to deprive Iran of exercising its most basic and universally recognized rights under international law."

The Iranian foreign minister also confirmed the likelihood of the peace talks shifting to New York within two or three weeks. He however was not sure when a recess in the Geneva talks would come up. He said everything depended on the secretary general or his personal representative Jan Eliasson.

Velayati said one of Iraq's preconditions was its insistence that it was necessary to enter into the discussion on the question of Arvand River as an element on the ceasefire. But he believed that Iran "and the rest of the international community shared the view that this element is totally irrelevant to the issue of ceasefire and should be taken up at an appropriate stage."

At the same time, he stressed, the Islamic Republic of Iran which he said stands to gain equally from the normal use of the waterway, is fully prepared to engage, "at the earliest feasible opportunity" into the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab "in accordance with the provisions laid down in the agreement between Iran and Iraq concerning the rules governing navigation in Shatt al-'Arab, dated 26 December 1975." He said the agreement "clearly and exhaustively" deals with the issue of clearing the waterway.

In reply to a question if Iran had rejected some "compromise formulas" by Eliasson to break the stalemate in the talks, Velayati said it was not Iran but Iraq which rejected all formulas for a compromise. He however did not disclose what the formulas put forth by Eliasson were.

"Principally we accepted this compromise formula and we have not had any main obstacle for the acceptance of that formula and are ready to have some bridges... those bridges suggested by Mr. Eliasson. But of course both sides should follow the river. If we deviate so the bridge is meaningless. [sentence as received] The river is agenda [as received] and Mr. Eliasson suggested, I think very reasonable proposals, and we had some small reservations but principally it was accepted by us."

Asked why there were no direct talks between him and his Iraqi counterpart to settle the issues of differences, Velayati replied Iran was insisting on direct talks "at any level" if the secretary general or his representative wished but stressed that these talks must take place within the framework of Resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's implementation plan. He said it was the secretary general's decision not to have face to face talks at this stage.

In reply to another question if the resignation of Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi this week had anything to do with the peace talks, Velayati said "No, no." He said it was "quite natural and legal" for a prime minister to resign when he realised he had some problems with the parliament like assurance that some of his ministers would not receive a vote of confidence.

Velayati once again denied he had any meeting with the Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar ibn Sultan here. He also said he had no official information why the Saudi envoy was visiting Geneva and if he was involved in the Geneva talks.

Asked about the Iranian delegation's meetings over the past two weeks with members of the Security Council here in Geneva, Dr. Velayati said it was necessary for the council members to be kept abreast of the trend of the peace talks and be always up-to-date. One reason, he cited, was that the Resolution 598 had been passed by the Security Council and "they follow the matter very seriously." He said it was the task of the Security Council to support the secretary general's activities.

The Iranian foreign minister categorically denied the claim that Iran had abrogated all its agreements with other countries concluded at the time of the ex-shah before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He said U.N. documents very clearly showed that Iran had officially declared its respect for these agreements particularly the 1975 accord with Iraq.

In conclusion Velayati reiterated that any country wishing to use the Strait of Hormuz must have an "innocent passage" through the waterway by which he meant their shipping would not harm Iran's interests.

Iraq Accused of Violating Rules

LD0809171688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Following the Iraqi regime's repeated violations of the clear principles of the cease-fire regulations, it committed more violations on 6 and 7 September. They are as follows:

1. On 6 September the enemy attempted to reinforce its units at Ganaveh and (Tappe Seqolu) bases. On the same day that regime tried to build new fortifications, to deploy war materiel and also to conduct engineering activities along the old Basra-Khorramshahr road near Pol-e Now.

2. On 7 September the enemy deployed a large number of engineering vehicles and attempted construction work in the heights of Dopazah and Tang-e Chazabeh. It also completed a communications station in (Bolfath) heights.

More on Iraqi Violations

LD0809195288 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 8, IRNA—In a press release issued by Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations here, Iraq has been accused of violating a ceasefire which went into effect between the two countries on Aug. 20, on 104 occasions.

In an earlier press release issued here last week, 74 cases had been mentioned but the new statement added 30 more instances of violations by Iraqi troops across the border.

It said the violations had been registered up to Sept. 3, 1988.

On Aug. 30 Iraqi forces raised an Iraqi flag on the Kalleh-Ghandi [placename as received] height at the geographical coordinates of 369000-896000 [figures as received], it said.

On another occasion, it said, on Aug. 30 a number of Iraqi military personnel entered the village of Hasanabad at the geogrpahical coordinates of 90-36 [figure as received] and raised the Iraqi flag there.

The press release was distributed among foreign journalists attending Velayati's press conference today.

Iraq Said 'Wasting Time'

LD0709144588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Although the peace negotiations in Geneva are moving very slowly, informed UN sources say that the Iraqi regime has downgraded its previous condition about dredging the Arvand River. However Iraq still insists that freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf should be declared.

The negotiations have now reached a sensitive stage, but so far only half of the first clause of Resolution No 598 has been implemented, that is on declaring a cease-fire. However, the next section, on the withdrawal of forces to international borders, has been blocked by the Iraqi regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, from the beginning of the negotiations, has moved along three fixed positions: Resolution No 598, the secretary general's executive plan, and finally the border agreement of 1975. But the Iraqi regime is more interested in wasting time so that, through international contacts, it may resolve its problems outside the framework of the United Nations and the Security Council. It is, furthermore, quite prepared to declare that it has no confidence in the secretary general, and to drag his efforts and those of his successor into a dead end. When Perez de Cuellar announced in Geneva that he was seeking a compromise solution, to include issues such as freedom of navigation, a cease-fire on land, and withdrawal of forces to a weapons-free zone, Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi adviser on foreign affairs, who had travelled to France, stated that the secretary general's proposal was not suitable. In a general perspective, it can be said that the Iraqi regime is trying to reach some objectives through wasting time. First, by its military action and its repeated violation of the cease-fire, it tries to consolidate its forces in new positions or to make the Iranian forces retreat from their present positions. Next, in the political arena, the Iraqi regime is trying to find instruments in order to put pressure on Iran. These include its imposition of preconditions, as well as Sa'dun Hammadi's trip to France and the United States. In any case, the Iraq's efforts have no prospect of success, and Iran has never allowed those superpowers, on whom the Iraqi regime is dependent, to play a role in the negotiations. Moreover, Iran's repeated emphasis of the border agreement of 1975, which was signed in Algeria, will deprive the Iraqi regime of a means to carry out political maneuvers.

The approach by Iran, the United Nations, and the Iraqi regime to the 1975 agreement will be counted as an important precedent for all international treaties. If the Iraqi regime is able to abrogate this agreement unilaterally and without consideration for the parties mentioned in this agreement, then any government will be able to abrogate bilateral agreements, and thereby create tension while taking advantage of the indifference or silence on the part of international forums, in particular the United Nations. In any case 8 years of war, and an enemy which never brought itself close to facts and realities, demonstrate that the Geneva negotiations, too, cannot result in a final and conclusive outcome in a short time, because of the Iraqi regime's blocking tactics.

Therefore, it is necessary to have patience and not to expect quick results. In any case the futile ploys of the Iraqi regime will cause more problems for this regime inside Iraq, as well as among its regional allies, and ultimately in the United Nations.

Iraq's Motives Questioned

LD0609175688 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 6 Sep 88

["Geneva Talks: What Does Saddam Husayn Want?"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 6. IRNA—As Iraq's preconditions continue to bog down the pace of the peace talks here at the U.N. European HQ, Iran seems to be seeking every possible avenue to break the stalemate for the cause of a "lasting peace" in the volatile Persian Gulf region.

Despite some pressure by the Security Council on the Baghdad government, the latter still insists on dredging the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) and access to the Persian Gulf before the negotiations could continue.

At the same time it regard the internationally-valid 1975 agreement with Iran as "null and void" only because Saddam Husayn, in another violation of the international regulations, unilaterally abrogated the same pact he himself concluded with the ex-shah of Iran.

The Iraqi ruler was surely very "proud" when he tore up a copy of the 1975 accord in a televised speech only five days before the ordered a full-scale invasion into Iran with the vain hope of emerging as a "great victor" in a matter of weeks or even days.

The saying goes "power and arrogance blurs the vision" and poor Saddam definitely blundered when he failed to take into account the will and determination of Iran's aroused Muslims, who blunted the Ba'thist invasion and pushed the aggressor back, making him sue for "peace".

But all it seems now is that eight years of bloodshed and destruction imposed on the two Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq were not enough to teach him a lesson because evidences here attest to the possibility of "another blunder" on the part of Saddam just similar to the one he committed on 22 Sept. 1980.

Iraq has amassed a million-strong army on its border with Iran and is waiting for fruition of its procrastinations in the Geneva peace talks so that on the pretext of a "deadlock" it could renew its aggression against the Islamic Republic.

"New impediments" every day seem to be a "tactic" the Ba'thist regime is presently resorting to in order to hamper the negotiations.

The world must gradually realize that Iraq's peace claims over the past eight years, after its dream of dismembering Iran turned into a nightmare, have been sheer propaganda—otherwise Baghdad would never attempt to spoil this golden opportunity for peace by attempting to undermine Iran's legitimate rights.

With the little progress in the peace talks caused by Baghdad's procrastinations, one becomes more receptive of the idea that basically Saddam Husayn does not want the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue his good offices in these talks. It is perhaps because there is a feeling of confidence in Saddam that sooner or later the U.N. chief who has a good knowledge about the nature of both parties, will be convinced that Iraq is not in favor of his peace plan despite its endorsement of the Resolution 598 the Security Council passed last year. He imagines, by undermining the role of the secretary general the 598 resolution would be automatically put aside and a new "peace plan" envisaged by Baghdad would replace it.

To be realistic Saddam is not happy with the full and precise implementation of the secretary general's peace plan (Resolution 598) particularly when it comes to Article 6 which must decide responsibility for the huge loss of life and destruction over the past eight years.

One point is very clear in this connection: The moment the Iraqi leader is identified as the one responsible for initiating the destructive eight year old war, the end of Saddam's political life would be celebrated by the Iraqi people—particularly by Iraqi Kurds who are falling victims to his repression and chemical warfare in thousands every day.

With diplomatic efforts continuing to break the stalemate in the peace talks Baghdad should be warned against the "dangerous game" it has started. Hope, [as received] the Iraqi ruler is wise enough not to misread the writing on the wall, for the atmosphere in Iran has lost none of its revolutionary fervour. Moreover this time even his ardent backers would lack the ruse to rush to his rescue.

For its part the Islamic Republic as the leadership has sincerely stated, is still hopeful the negotiations will finally bear fruit and lasting peace and stability return to the region, but of course not at the expense of Iran's legitimate rights or the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Commentary Views GCC Conference, Cooperation

NC0609184388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Commentary by Central News Unit]

[Text] The GCC foreign ministers' conference ended its work in Riyadh last night. The 28th session of the GCC foreign ministers conference issued a final communique describing the establishment of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq as an important step toward complete and just peace between the two sides. It has also expressed hope that the Geneva talks will lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace.

As gleaned from the communique, as well as from statements by the foreign ministers of the six GCC members—the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia—the GCC intends, in view of the conditions prevailing after the declaration of the cease-fire and the commencement of the Geneva talks, to strengthen its relations with Iran and take an active approach to the peace talks and the normalization of the regional situation. Within this framework, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister has said that the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Bandar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has been assigned to hold consultations with the Iranian and Iraqi representatives in Geneva. He will be the GCC's envoy to Geneva. At any rate, it seems that with its final communique the GCC intends to open a new chapter in regional relations, especially with Iran.

From the outset of the imposed war this council supported the Iraqi regime, and some of its member governments played a major role in sustaining the Iraqi regime and extending financial and political assistance to Iraq. Even in cases when the Security Council announced the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, the GCC—especially under the influence of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Governments—preferred to remain silent, and by constantly creating bottlenecks it tried to save the Iraqi regime from any type of public condemnation or world and regional isolation.

However, in its approach to the GCC the Islamic Republic of Iran pursued stable principles. Goodneighborly relations and the establishment of normal relations, far from any type of pressure on any side and emphasis on regional security and the fact that security in the Persian Gulf should be ensured only by the littoral states are prominent among these principles. These principles will continue to remain major norms in relations, and it will be clarified that, as has always been said, the GCC cannot forget the largest country on the Persian Gulf coast, Iran, when making and implementing decisions.

The GCC's records have black pages, such as the Mecca massacre by the Al Sa'ud regime and Kuwait's invitation of the NATO fleets to the Persian Gulf. Obviously, any kind of major development in relations between the GCC and Iran cannot ignore these significant issues. However, as far as the Geneva talks are concerned, which the GCC foreign ministers have emphasized, obviously the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any step that will pressure the Iraqi regime and bring the talks out of their current stagnation. However, any assumption that Iran is prepared to make concessions and to put aside its principles to achieve a rapid result in the Geneva talks is mistaken.

Various Forces Leave for Border Areas

Troops Depart From Nur

LD0609152488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Continuing the extensive dispatch of popular forces to the borders of the Islamic homeland, a large group of fresh Mobilization forces from the town of Nur were dispatched today to the western and southern borders of the country to join the other combatants of Islam.

Hamadan Forces Leave

LD0809204088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] A large group of mobilization forces from Hamadan Province left for our Islamic homeland's borders this afternoon after a ceremony and within the framework of the second Muharram convoy.

Basiji Volunteers Leave

NC0709053888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Khorramabad—recorded]

[Text] In continuation of the departure of volunteer basiji forces to the war fronts, a large number of volunteer forces from the cities and districts of Lorestan Province, consisting of reserve, trained, and combat-specialized forces, gathered at the Martyr Beheshti garrison in Khorramabad, from where they departed, in the form of the fifth convoy of the Mohammad Corps' special dispatch for the month of Muharram [14 August-12 September], for the fronts of light against darkness in order to safeguard the borders of our Islamic homeland.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Khorramabad.

Official Outlines Conscription Rules, Penalties

NC0809094688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has interviewed Brigadier General Razmju, chief of the Public Service Department, regarding conditions for the enrollment of students for the current academic year and the grace period for delinquent conscripts to report to public service centers.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Brigadier Razmju, what date has been fixed for delinquent conscripts to report to the public service centers? What punishments do such conscripts face if they fail to report?

[Razmju] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The maximum grace period for delinquent conscripts is until 18 Mehr 1367 [10 October 1988]. Individuals who report after this specific date will have to serve 31 months, rather than the usual 28. These conscripts will have to serve an additional year after 10 October, that is 12 months more than the 31 months, plus 2 months extra service for each month's delinquency. For example, if a conscript reports in the month of Aza; [22 November—21 December], he will be 2 months late and thus will have to serve 4 months extra, in addition to the 12 months penalty for reporting after 10 October. With the 31-month tenure he will have to serve 47 months in all. If he is arrested before conscription, 15 months will be added to these 47, meaning 62 months of service.

On the basis of (?regulations), the Armed Forces will not keep conscripts in service more than 5 years. For instance, if the conscript serves 5 years but according to this formula is supposed to serve more than that, he is referred to the Armed Forces court. The court can decide

to (?waive) the extra months as [word indistinct] for 50,000 rials per month or exact some other punishment. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Caspian Sea Oil Pipeline Inaugurated

LD0609211788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] The Anzali-Rasht oil pipeline started operations today with the docking of a Soviet oil tanker in Anzali Port.

At the start of the pipeline's operations this morning, the manager of the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC], Gilan region, gave an interview to an IRNA correspondent. He said that the construction of the 40-km Anzali-Rasht pipeline began last December and was completed and went into operation today. The pipeline was built with a budget of 2.5 billion rials. The tanker that docked today was carrying 4.7 million liters of oil.

The NIOC manager added that the pipeline is the second for transferring oil from the Caspian Sea waters in the north of the country. In addition to transferring petroleum products to Rasht, the pipeline is also capable of exporting crude oil to the USSR.

Energy Agreement Signed With China

LD0309160588 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 3 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—The Islamic Republic and the People's Republic of China have signed an agreement on mutual cooperation in the fields of dam construction and energy, said official in charge of the Energy Ministry 'Abol Hasan Khamushi here Saturday.

According to the agreement, Khamushi said, China will provide technical services for an Iranian consultants' firm, affiliated to the Energy Ministry, which is in charge of the construction of the second stage of 'Kharkhe Dam' in Khuzestan Province.

The agreement also envisages preliminary talks between the two countries on setting up two power plants in Kerman and Ostans-e Gilan Provinces, southeastern and northern Iran, he said.

He said that several giant water and electricity projects are to be implemented and become operational by Iranian experts. The latest in science will be employed in executing the projects, he added.

The total capacity of power stations throughout the country increased to 11,046 megawatt by early 1988 from 6,115 megawatt in 1979 because of several gas, hydro-electric and steam power plants set up since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, he said.

The domestic electricity consumption from 14,345 megawatt per hour in 1979 rose to 35,216 megwatt per hour by early 1988, showing an average annual growth rate of 10.5 percent, he said.

Khamushi said the Energy Ministry provided electricity for 1,037 villages all over the country last year, bringing to 21,391 the number of villages enjoying electricity. A total of 17,034 villages have been provided with electricity since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he added.

He said the Energy Ministry is studying plans to set up new power plants with a total capacity of 6,800 megawatt, adding within the next two years once a number of semi-finished projectss are completed.

With reconstruction of two power units in the next two months the country's total electricity generation will increase by 750 megawatt, Khamushi concluded.

Forgery, Drug Ring Smashed in Tehran

LD0809121188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The uncovering of a currency-forgery and drug-dealing gang in Tehran Province is the subject of our next news report. Through the ceaseless efforts of the guards from the Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC] of Tehran Province, since the beginning of the Al-'Adiyat scheme, 1.5 tonnes of illicit drugs have been uncovered in Tehran Province, and 2,947 drug dealers and 4,568 drug addicts have been arrested. According to a report by the Central News Unit, more than 36 kg of heroin, 1,206 kg of opium, and 127 mg of opium residue were confiscated. According to the same report, with the information and assistance from the hezbollah people, the IRC Guards from Tehran's 8th Department succeeded in uncovering a gang involved in forgery of $100 bills and 1,000 Afghani bills in a town in Tehran Province. This gang was smashed and all the accused were arrested with all their forgery equipment.

One of the commanders of the IRC committee said the recovered bills—which included more than 100 $100 bills and 1,300 Afghani bills, as well as 4,700 $100 bills ready to be cut—were confiscated before being distrubuted on the streets. According to the same report, a large amount of currency-grade paper—which had been imported from Pakistan—a printing machine, a camera, and other equipment were found.

Gold Coin Smugglers Fined, Imprisoned

LD0409150688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] The next news report is about the arrest in Khorasan of members of a gang making forged coins and selling and smuggling gold and coins out of the country:

A gang making forged coins and selling and smuggling gold out of the country was uncovered and broken up with the cooperation of officers of the Central Supervision Committee and the Khorasan Supervision Committee. Its members, who had embarked on disrupting the country's monetary system by making thousands of forged low-carat coins, selling them on the market, and smuggling them out of the country, were arrested.

The leader of the gang was a person named 'Ali Qalizadeh, who came to Iran a few years ago, and who was originally Afghan. Also, 'Ali Reza Zavaheriyan, son of 'Ali Asqar, the gang's go-between in the matter of forging coins [as heard], Mohammad Ashrafi, son of 'Abbas, trader in gold, and Majid Hajihoseyni-Gazestani and 'Ali Hajihoseyni-Gazestani, sons of Ramezan, traders in gold, who were all involved in making forged coins and minting machines, were arrested.

The sentences handed down are as follows:

For 'Ali Qalizadeh, confiscation of all monies received from the sale of forged coins, amounting to 232,875,000 rials, and their deposit in a numbered account [as heard] the payment of a fine of 212,975,000 rials to the treasury; 3 years' imprisonment to include the detention period so far; 70 lashes in public, and an announcement in the mass media.

For Mohammad Ashrafi, confiscation of the discovered 4.2 kg of gold and of all the minting machines which are to be handed over to the Central Bank; payment of cash fine of 140 million rials; 50 lashes in public, 25 lashes in Mashhad and 25 in Tehran; 1 year's imprisonment to include the detention period so far, and an announcement in the mass media.

For 'Ali Zaveheriyan, confiscation of all the monies received from the sale of forged coins, amounting to 14,062,500 rials, and their deposit in a numbered account [as heard]; payment of a 26,950,000 rial cash fine; 1 year's imprisonment to include the detention period so far; 50 lashes in public, and an announcement in the mass media.

For Majid Haji Hoseyni-Gazestani, confiscation of all the monies received from the sale of the coins, amounting to 35,156,250 rials; payment of a 60,112,500 rial cash fine; 50 lashes in public; 1 year's imprisonment to include the detention period so far and an announcement in the mass media.

For 'Ali Haji Hoseyni-Gazestani, payment of an 11,812,500 rial cash fine; 6 months' imprisonment to include the detention period so far; 20 lashes in public, and an announcement in the mass media.

All the gold coins and the minting machines seized from the second, third, and fourth defendants have been confiscated and handed over to the central bank.

Khamene'i Addresses Graduating Cadets

LD0609194688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] The graduation ceremonies of the 14th group of the Ground Forces Military Tactics cadets, named after the martyred Brigadier General Ebrahim Sadeq, was held in the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at the cadet college.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the ceremonies, which were attended by commanders of the three forces, a number of military commanders, Majlis deputies as well as families of martyrs and various groups of people, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, noting that the college is a source of hope and pride said: You cadets are those who will make the military future of the Islamic Republic; and the Armed Forces, having gone through 8 years of imposed war and 10 years of defending the Islamic Revolution have an honored place in the society.

He added: The current policy of the system and the view of the leader of the revolution is to strengthen the Armed Forces and the IRGC and to arm the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces must strengthen their organization and the IRGC should increase its own specialities in the same way because the revolution is going through an important phase and you cadets must know your duties exactly and carry your responsibility in the best possible way. It must be noted that there are some who are attempting to drain the system of its fundamental values, goals, and slogans. They will definitely not succeed. There are also others who pretend that the system has abandoned its holy goals and slogans. Both groups are wrong. The leader of the revolution, following 8 years of holy defense is steadfast today for the sake of Islam's interests and the defense of the revolution and people have supported him.

Musavi Resigning May Lead to Majlis Dissolution

TA0809144988 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that Mir Hoseyn Musavi's resignation is the beginning of a process that will likely lead to the dissolution of the third Majlis. This Majlis, which Ahmad Khomeyni and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi managed to fill with their staunch supporters by rigging the elections, is a Majlis which Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and 'Ali Khamene'i oppose. These three figures are covertly seeking to dissolve the Majlis.

The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, which publishes the views of 'Ali Khamene'i's group, wrote in an article some time ago that a large number of so-called deputies of the third Majlis entered the Majlis by means of trickery, deceit, forgery, file fabrication, and bribery, and are not qualified to be Majlis deputies.

Pakistan

13 Injured in Hyderabad Clashes 7-8 Sep

BK0809154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] A press note issued by the Hyderabad Division commissioner says that two groups exchanged gunfire at the Hyderabad City branch of the Liaqat Medical College Hospital 8 September. One group fired from the doctors' hostel and the other from a nearby area. Police brought the situation under control and removed the groups from the hospital.

Meanwhile, in some other areas of the city, passing vehicles were fired at from within some unknown cars, in which 10 people were injured. Patrolling has been intensified in the affected areas.

The press note also adds that three unknown scooter-borne men fired at a restaurant in Latifabad last night, injuring three persons. The injured were immediately rushed to the hospital where two of them later died.

Army Called in To Control Riots

BK0909030688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] In Pakistan, troops were called out in Hyderabad yesterday following the killing of at least six people in ethnic riots which erupted on Wednesday night [7 September]. Officials in Karachi said that the Army was called in to prevent further ethnic violence which has claimed more than 60 lives in the city since June. The rioting broke out after a rally of Sindhi nationalists demanding more jobs for their unemployed community people.

Defense Minister on Radar Acquisition, Kashmir

BK0709165788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Mahmud A. Haroon told the Senate today that the government is trying to acquire a sophisticated radar system to detect any aircraft violating Pakistani airspace from the Afghan side. He was replying to identical adjournment motions made by Prof Khurshid Ahmad, Yaqubzadah Bahrawar Sheikh, Javed Jabbar, Syed Abbas Shah, and Tariq Chaudhary in connection with the recent violation of Pakistani airspace by Kabul regime aircraft near Dir, Charsadda, and Peshawar. The defense minister said the existing radars are not capable of detecting the aircraft violating the airspace because Pakistan's border with Afghanistan passes through very high mountain ranges. That is why the government is trying to acquire radars installed on aircraft in order to monitor such violations and take immediate action.

Mahmud A. Haroon said we have also started a program to produce defense goods in the country, but it will take some time. He said the government takes serious note of the airspace violations, and action is taken whenever possible. In this context, he referred to the shooting down on 4 August of an aircraft which was being piloted by a Soviet officer.

At the insistence of the movers of the motions, the defense minister assured that he, in consultation with the foreign minister, will soon fix a date for discussion on the defense and foreign policies. The movers then did not press their motions.

After the defense minister's statement, Prof Khurshid Ahmad also did not press his motion about the police firing at condolence meetings held at Srinagar and at other places in Indian-held Kashmir to mourn the death of martyr President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The defense minister said a sense of profound sorrow and indignation is found among Pakistani people over the suppression of the people's feelings toward our martyr president through oppression and violence [by Indian authorities] in the occupied Kashmir. He said as a result of the late president's exemplary services for the supremacy of Islam, Muslims in the every part of the world have expressed grief and sorrow. It is only natural that the Muslims of Kashmir, with whom we have close religious and historical ties, will also feel much sorrow over this tragedy. The defense minister said these incidents once again remind us of the need for a fair and honorable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue on the basis of the UN resolutions and under the spirit of the Simla agreement.

The house will meet again on Saturday [10 September] afternoon.

Sri Lanka

Indian Government Against New LTTE Recruitment

BK0609122188 Colombo International Service in English1045 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] The Indian Government yesterday said the reported move of the LTTE increasing its recruitment drive and training young Tamil students indicated the uncaring attitude of the leadership of the militant group toward the people whom it professed to liberate.

In a statement in New Delhi, an official spokesman said the training camps are reported to be active in the (Vadamara) area in the Jaffna Peninsula. It said the recruitment drive also indicated the LTTE leadership's selfish stand of motivating and coercing young Tamil students to indulge in political and antisocial activities.

The statement added that the drive would lead to the degeneration of an entire new generation of Tamils rendering themselves unqualified and jobless in the future.

Joint Command Warns Public on 'False Rumors'
BK0709115088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1109 GMT 7 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Joint Operations Command [JOC] today warned the public against false rumours being spread by mischievous elements. A JOC spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that there was no threat whatsoever from any source and requested shops, hotels and other commercial establishments [words indistinct] in open. The spokesman said all necessary security measures had been taken to protect the public.

Southern Provincial Councillor Killed by Gunman
BK0509120688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1117 GMT 5 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—A member of the Southern Provincial Council was shot dead at Matara this morning by a terrorist gunman firing a T-56 automatic rifle, police told LANKAPUVATH. They said the victim was Ajantha Amerasinghe, who was also a well known sportsman in the province.

Mr. Amerasinghe was travelling by car from his home to his boutique about 0815 hours (local time) when at the Wallewatte Junction the gunman had opened fire killing the provincial councillor and wounding two bystanders, one of them a thambili (king coconut) seller.

Another report received this morning from the Southern Province states that G. Premachandra was shot dead by gunmen at his home at Hakmana at 0515 hours (local time) this morning.

JVP Note Claims Responsibility for Hotel Bombing
BK0709114388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1107 GMT 7 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—A note purporting to be from the JVP [Jatiya Vimukthi Peramuna] was delivered at the Palace Hotel in Front Street, Pettah, where the bomb which killed 5 and injured 40 yesterday was planted, police told LANKAPUVATH. This has led police to suspect that the JVP could be responsible for the crime.

Police said another line of investigation being pursued was that the bomb had been planted due to personal enmity over a property dispute.

They said that a few minutes before the blast at 1835 hours (local time) a man had delivered the note threatening reprisals if the Palace Hotel was not closed to mark the funeral of Wijedasa Liyanarachchi, a lawyer who died at the General Hospital Colombo, after being in police custody.

A few minutes later another man had arrived at the hotel and placed a parcel on the cashier's counter while the cashier was reading the note. The manager of the hotel had seen smoke coming out from the parcel and called out to the man who had placed the parcel to take it away. The bomber by then had fled.

The cashier had run inside the hotel while the manager had picked up the parcel and had just thrown it when the 2 kg bomb exploded killing him, a harbour worker, a pavement hawker and 2 others and injuring 40.

'Southern Terrorists' Blast Rail Track, Injure 2
BK0709113388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1114 GMT 7 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Sept (LANKAPUVATH)—South bound rail services beyond Maggona, a town 50 kilometres from Colombo were disrupted when southern terrorists blasted a 20 metre stretch of rail track with explosives in the early hours of this morning. Police told LANKAPUVATH that two passengers travelling in the Colombo-Alutgama train were injured and two compartments damaged by the explosion at 0300 hours (local time) today.